Israel forecasts Taba pact

TEL AVIV (R) - Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said Sunday Israel would settle its Taba border dispute with Egypt within three weeks. Arens told visiting American Jews the two countries had broken a logjam in talks over the Red Sea beach strip which has been an irritant in relations for seven years. "There is every reason in expect that in the negotiations that will take place during the next few days, at the nutside two or three weeks I think, everything will get settled to everybody's satisfaction," Arens said. He said he and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid agreed in two telephone conversations over the weekend that two committees would resume negotiations on the price of a luxury batel and Israeli access to the strip. The Israell cabinet last week agreed to withdraw from the strip within two weeks of agreement being reached on outstanding issues. Egypt had demanded a specific date for Israel to hand over the 700-metre strip. The Israeli foreign minister said he expected Cairo to agree on compenso tion for the Israeli owners of the hotel and on who would be responsible for

Volume 14 Number 4004

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AMMAN MONDAY FEBRUARY 6, 1989. JUMADA AL AQIRA 29, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Dinar firms after CBJ move

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian dinar firmed against the dollar Sunday with banks trading in line with Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) rates in a quiet market, dealers said.

The CBJ priced the dinar at 560/565 fils to the dollar, compared with 565/570 Saturday when it raised the rate from 493/495 to align them with the market.

Dealers said banks, which must now abide by the official rate, were using the CBJ price for customers but the inter-bank market remained

The announcement of the new rate followed a meeting Thursday at the CBJ attended by representatives of all commercial banks and financial institutions operating in the Kingdom. The meeting was called to discuss the rate of exchange of the dinar against foreign currency in the light of the government's earlier decision to carry out a managed floating of the dinar, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The meeting discussed the most effective mea-

sures to bring about stability in prices and to avoid any speculation in the local markets, according to the announcement.

It said that the participants pledged to abide by the CBJ regulations concerning the rate of ex-change of different currencies in a manner that would ensure the continued influw of foreign exchange into the Kingdom and agreed that they

would all abide by the CBJ's daily exchange rates. Another CBJ announcement said interest on credit facilities in Jordanian dinar for residents offered by all banks operating in the Kingdom was raised by one per cent to become 10 per cent

The announcement, carried by the Sawt Al Shaab daily, said that credit facilities and loans offered by banks and other specialised moneylending institutions in the Kingdom will become 10 per cent with effect from Jan. 29.1.89.

It said that interest on credit facilities for non-residents was set at 13 per cent, up from 12



His Majesty King Hussein with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Bagbdad Sunday (Petra wirephoto)

Al Hussein visits Royal Cemeteries in Baghdad

King, Iraqi president review Gulf talks

BAGHDAD (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Sunday discussed Iraq-Iran peace negotiations after eight years of war and implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 precluded by the Iranian side.

The two leaders' talks also fo- the situation in Lebanon. cused on collective Arab action, developments in the Palestinian problem, the right of the Palesti-

Jordan backs Riyadh summit, Egypt on agenda

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief nians to set up an independent Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn state and self-determination and Shaker and the Jordanian ambasby First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tureq Aziz and the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan. President Hussein later hosted

sador to Iraq and on the Iraqi side

a dinner in honour of the King and the delegation accompanying him. It was attended by senior lragi officials.

Later, the King presented an old rifle to the Iraqi president. The gift was originally presented

(Continued on page 2)

Qasem briefs **British** delegation

AMMAN (Petra) - Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Oasem Sunday briefed a visiting British parliamentary delegation on dimensions of the Jordanian decision to sever legal and administrative relations with the occupied West Bank, and pointed out that it had contributed to highlighting the Palestinian identity.

Oasem said Israel's intraosigence was the only obstacle in the way of a just settlement to the Arah-Israeli conflict.

At a meeting with the delega-tion at the Foreign Ministry. Qasem praised the strong and friendly relatioos between Jordan and Britain and voiced satisfac-



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Sunday holds talks with a visiting British parliamentary delegation (Petra photo)

liamentary institutions of the two

Qasem also reviewed the Arah position vis-a-vis a just, durable and compreheosive peace in the

The Arah position "is now clear-cut and solid, following the development in the Palestinian position as voiced in the resolu-National Council meeting in

tion over ties between the par- Algiers last November," Qasem said. These resolutions, Qasem said, have recognised Uoited Natioos Security Couocil resolutions 242 and 338, including Israel's right to exist.

The meeting was attended hy British Ambassador to Jordan Antony Reeve, and Parliameot Secretary General Hani Kheir.

tions adopted by the Palestine See page 3 for Jordan Times' interview with the British MPs.

Confederation

The prime minister said Jordan and the PLO had not reached any agreement on a Jordanian-Palesti-nian confederation. "We consider that raising the subject of confederation is premature," he said. "However, we recognise that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are unique and have roots in all fields." He said the Jordanian-PLO coop-eration has given hopes to the Palestinians living under occupa-

On the issue of confederation, Rifai noted that the PLO had adopted a position calling for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state before anything else. In reply to a question on a call by the U.S. secretary of state for a confederation between Jordan and Palestine, Rifai noted that the Palestinian state was already there and recognised by more than 100

Tribute to uprising

Rifai paid tribute 10 the 14-



Zaid Rifai

month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories as a popular revolt against occupation and said it would continue until it achieves all of its objectives.

The prime minister reiterated Jordan's call for an international

conference on the Middle East

anended by the five permanent

members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the PLO. He said Jordan would not accept an international conference under the sponsorship of just the two superpowers "because we do not want the Arab-Israeli conflict to be transformed into a conflict between the two superpowers," The European role in efforts for peace in the Middle East has developed positively, he noted.

Jordan's economy

Rifai said the economic situation in Jordan was good in general and that the Kingdom does not suffer from any problems as a result of the world economic recession. On the contrary, he said, Jordan's economy had registered a growth of three per cent when the Middle East region was suffering from the global economic recession. Jordanian economy is an artive one that does not suffer from any economic difficulties but from financial ones — that is the Kigndom's foreign exchange reserves," he

Jordan's foreign debt, he said, is slightly less than the amount of Arab aid the Kingdom was to receive under the 1978 Baghdad summit resolutions, Jordan was to receive an annual \$1.2 hillion in aid under the resolutions but it received the amount only for one year, he pointed out.

He said contacts were under way with the designated Arah donor countries on making up for Jor-dan's deficit. The subject was discussed at the Arab summit conference in Amman and Algiers, he

The recent economic measures adopted by the government have proved successful, the prime minis-

Government reshuffle

Rifai said the recent government reshuffle was aimed at changing the positions of some officials with a view giving new colleagues the opportunity of sharing responsibil-ity. He noted that such reshuffles

(Continued on page 2)

Stroessner exiled to Brazil

ASUNCION (R) — Toppled Paraguayan strongman Alfredo Stroessner flew to exile in Brazil Sunday as the new government annunced general elections within the next three months and praised the man

hey had ousted. Sources at Asuncion's international airport said Stroessner, who ruled the country for-34 years, left aboard a Paraguayan airlines Boeing 707 shortly before 4 p.m. (1900 GMT). His precise destination was not known.

A crowd of about 300 cheered as the aircraft carrying Stroessner and his family took

Stroessner left for exile a few ours after 2 Brazilian embassy spokesman said his country bad granted residence to the 76-year-old general.

Provisional President Andres Rodriguez told Renters he recognised the merits of Stroessner, who was overthrown in a bloody coup two days eartier.

"We do not deny Stroess ner's works of progress in Pa-raguay, we acknowledge his merits," he said in brief comnents made at his army head-

Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana earlier told reporters the government would hold

elections within 90 days.
"They will be free and lemocratic and provide equal opportunity for all," Argana said, adding the exact date would be approunced in a few

Stroessner was arrested after i five-hour battle between rebel and loyalist forces.

Rodriguez was sworn in as provisional president shortly after, promising to restore

Official figures put casualties

in the fighting at 17 dead and 30 injured, including a French citizen and another civilian. Western diplomats estimated the death toll at more than 300. Most casualties were at the barracks of the presidential

bodyguard where Stroessner sheltered from a bombardment of tank cannon, mortars and machine guns.

Israeli troops kill Gazan, injure 28 amid protests

(Agencies) — Israeli troops in the occupied Gaza Strip shot dead a Palestinian teenager and wounded at least 24 other people during demonstrations Suoday against the killing of two boys the day

In the occupied West Bank. roops shot and injured four teenagers in the village of Burgeen when protesters stoned an

army patrol, Palestinians said. Officials at Gaza City's Ahli bospital said troops shot dead 17-year-old Hammad Jamil Ottar during anti-Israel protests in nearby Sha'n Palestinian refugee

Staff at Ahli and other Gaza hospitals said they treated 24 Palestinians, including an infant of 21/2 years, for gunshot wounds as Palestinians throughout the

strip clashed with troops. Khan Younis, where troops shot dead two Palestinian boys Saturday, closed down during a general strike in response to the killings. The town's refugee camp was placed under military curfew camps, Palestinians said.

Students marched in Gaza City and groups of masked, stooethrowing protesters hattled soldiers in several Gaza Strip towns and refugee camps, Palestinians

Fighting was fiercest in Jahalya camp, the higgest in Gaza, where 17 people were shot and wound-

ed, bospitals reported. The renewed flare-up of violence in Gaza contradicted claims by Israeli officials that an army clampdown was hringing the up-

rising under control. Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin bas floated a political plan aimed at ending the uprising, but has continued tough military measures against Palesti-

nian protesters. Rabin says he sees no contradiction in proposing a political solution while using force to crush demonstrations. The plan centres on elections in

the occupied territories to choose

Palestinian representatives for

talks with Israel. While not yet

endorsed by the Israeli govern-ment, it has already beeo rejected hy Palestinian leaders as too little too late.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told visiting American Jewish activists Sunday the government would launch a peace initiative

AMMAN (J.T.) -- Prime Minister

Zaid Rifai has said that Jordan

supports the convening of the next regular Arab summit in Saudi Ara-

hia and that there was semi-consen-

sus on including in the summit agenda the reinstatement of Egypt

the summit and the Arah

In an interview published Sun-

day in Kuwait's Al Watan daily,

Rifai said His Majesty King Hus-sein would visit the U.S. for talks

with President George Bush on the

Middle East situation, the Palesti-

nian question and the Arab-Israeli

conflict. He did not give a specific

date for the visit, but added that

His Majesty was involved in in-

tense efforts to overcome inter-

Arah differences and to unify Arab

and coordination with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are

at its best in the wake of Jordan's

decision to sever legal and adminis-trative ties with the occupied West

Bank - "a decision that elimin-

ated all sensitivities and suspi-

cions" - Rifai sold Al Watan.

Jordan's relations, cooperation

Siaff at Arab Jerusalem's Mokased hospital said Mustapha Yunis, from the West Bank village of Qatanna, died of stab wounds after villagers attacked

him Saturday. The army said he was killed in a feud hetween rival clans but Palestinian sources said he was an activist slain by alleged collabor-

ators with Israeli authorities. Jewish settlers occupied two houses in Hehron during the night, claiming Palestinians had thrown petrol bombs at settlers from the huildings, hut left peacefully after talks with the army,

Israel radio reported. Residents staged an impromptu general strike against the settlers' action and troops declared Hebron a closed military zone.



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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Mubarak hopes to meet Bush in Tokyo

CAIRO (R) - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak plans to attend

the funeral of the late Japanese Emperor Hirohito and may meet

U.S. President George Bush in Tokyo, Egyptian officials said

Sunday. "Muharak would like to see a lot of people in Tokyo and

Bush must be at the top of the list," said one official, who declined

to be identified. "Funerals are quite useful from this point of view." a Western diplomat said. "It's inconceivable that both men

would be in the same town and not make some kind of contact.

S. Yemen to have international dialling

ABU DHABI (R) - South Yemen will set up direct international

telephone lines via satellite in May, its communications minister

was quoted Sunday as saying. Saleh Abdullah Muthanna told the Abu Dhahi daily Al Ittihad that three ground stations linked to

satellites, including one of the Arah communications satellite

Arabsat, would he used. South Yemen is the only country in the

Arabian Peninsula which is not yet connected to the international

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre

has pardoned 86 political prisoners from the war-torn north of the

country, Radio Mogadishu said Sunday. The detainees, who were

not identified, were the first to he freed under an amnesty of

political prisoners announced last month by Prime Minister

Mohammad Ali Samantar, Forty-five of the prisoners were released from a camp in Hargeisa, the provincial capital of the north, and 41 from Borama on the Ethiopian horder, the radio

said. Samantar said Friday in Washington that 200 political prisoners were expected to he released within a few weeks as partof his government's economic and political reforms. Somalia hegani

a diplomatic offensive last month to counter allegations of human

rights abuses during its efforts to crush the rebel Somali National

GCC power grid panel to meet in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) - The power grid committee of the Gulf

Cooperation Council (GCC) will meet in Bahrain Wednesday to

discuss hids for the first phase of a electricity project between the

six-state political and economic alliance. The Gulf News Agency

said Sunday the first stage aimed at linking the capitals of Bahrain,

Saudi Arahia and Kuwait. The second phase would link Qatar,

Oil tanker ablaze off Algerian terminal

ALGIERS (R) - Fire broke out on board a Turkish oil tanker off

the western Algerian oil terminal of Arzew early Sunday, the

official APS news agency reported. The agency said gas leaking

from the lanker Rofbey caught light. It quoted local firefighting

services as saying the blaze was under control, there were no

Siad Barre pardons 86 prisoners

though I haven't heard about a formal meeting."

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A Soviet soldier secures camouflage netting un his armoured personnel carrier as his convoy prepares to leave Kahul

King, Iraqi leader hold talks

Continued from page I

to the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein by the late King Faisal I of Iraq. The Iraqi president presented King Hussein with a rifle manufactured in Iraq.
President Hussein and senior

fragi officials were at hand to receive the King upon his arrival in Baghdad earlier in the day on a two-day visit.

Shortly after arrival, the King visited the Royal Cemeteries at Azamieh and recited verses of the Holy Koran.

The King heard a briefing on the restoration of the cemeleries hy Iraqi Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs Abdullah

The King was accompanied by

Ramadan and other Iraqi offi

man King Hussein was seen off hy His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior government officials. Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent prior to the King's departure.

Jordan backs Riyadh summit

government and said that the King fieds it suitable from time to time to inject new blood into the govcmment. "All interpretations (of the reshuffle) published abroad are incorrect and far from truth," he aid and dismissed suggestions that the reshuffle was part of prepara-

tions for a "new phase."

The prime minister called for the mobilisation of all efforts to deal with the root causes of the Palestinian problem and condenined Israel's oppressive measures against the Palestinians living to the occupied termiones. He said a solution of the problem

could come only through a total Israeli withdrawal from the occu-pied territories. "Neither the U.S. nor Israel has the right to determine the future of the occupied Arab territories," he said, "All efforts should be focused on ensuring Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and guaran-teeing the right of the Palestinian people to set an independent state on their outlonal soil," he said.

Israel's 'options'

The prime minister said if Israel was thinking of annexing the occupied territories, "it will undermine its own existence because half of its residents will be Arabs, posing an issue that jeopardise it... or Israel will have to apply the apartheid policy of South Africa and transform itself into a state similar to

There are a few Israeli calls for resettling West Bank Palestinians in Jordan and Gaza. Rifai noted. 'It is difficult for Israel to do this since it implies that Israel wage a new war and occupy more Arab territories and then withdraw in a hid to continue its occupation of

the whole of Palestine," he said. We are ured of new initiatives and we do not want to return to square one alter having come a

The King later visited the Martyrs Monument and laid a wreath there. He presented to the monument the Jordanian Al Nahda Medal of the First Order and the Istihqaq Military Medal and recited verses of the Holy Koran.

Upon his departure from Am-

long way and His Majesty having Continued from page 1 canvassed international support for the Palestinian cause," Rifai said. were part of the life of every The proposed four-country economic bloc, Rifai said, is the out-come of consultations among Jordan, Iraq. Egypt and North Yemen

> The Lebanese situation, Rifai said, is tragie and any solution to the Lebanese crisis requires the agreement of all Lebaoese parties. He noted that any Arab effort 10 settle the Lehanese issu focus on paving the way for achieving inter-Lebauese agreement, because any solution to the Lebanese problem should emanate from the Lebanese themselves with Arab

and it is open for any sister Arah

Rifai praised the European role in the Middle East saying that a unified European role had been crystallised and it is supportive of the PLO and the settlement of the Palestine question as envisaged by the Arab side. He added that the European stand would serve as a factor pressuring Israel and its

On prospects for an allout war in the Middle East, Rifai said "We hear voices from time to time saving that Israel might wage a new war to find a way out of its crisis and to change the situation. However, any such war is determined by the Arab ability to deter Israel or to repulse any Israeli

"Jordan, which has the longest borders with Israel, constitutes the first defence line for the Arab Nation and Jordan's power is pow-

er for all the Arabs. He added that any Arab power capable of deterring Israel would contribute to reaching a peaceful settlement. Therefore, it is necessary for us to huild our own military and economic capabilities, if we waot to establish peace rather than war, because the Arab might is the main factor that will force Israel to accept peace."

Shevardnadze extends Afghan talks

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) - Soviet Foreign Minister he told a closely-guarded rally in Eduard Shevardnadze extended his stay in Pakistan for critical talks on the future of Afghanistan. Sunday, possibly for a meeting with rebel Mujahedeen leaders.

said Shevardnadze, struggling in a last-ditch talks with Islamabad to find a peaceful solution to the bitter and bloody Afghan conflict, would leave for home Monday instead of Sunday evening as previously planned.

They were unable to offer an immediate explanation for the extension and said they did not know if meetings with Mujahedeen leaders were planned.

But a spokesman for one of the seven Pakistan-hased Mujahedeen groups said it was possible Shevardnadze would meet rebel

"We understand that there may be a meeting, but it is not 100 per cent certain," he said. The spokesman said Sibghatullah Mojadidi, leader of the sevenparty alliance hased in the northwest Pakistan city of Peshawar,

Soviet and Pakistani officials had not returned from talks with Mujahedeen groups hased in

"He is the chairman and he would have to be at the meeting,"

the spokesman said. Mojadidi was expected back in Pakistan some time Sunday, hut his movements were not confirmed, the spokesman added.

The Soviet minister, who arrived Sunday from Peking, has had talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Foreign Minister Sahahzada Yaquh -Khan.

In Kabul, Afghan President Najihullah roared defiance at his enemies Sunday, exhorting several thousand armed party workers to defend his government against the rebels now that Soviet troops were leaving Afghanistan.

"God is with us, the people are with us, we cannot lose the war,"

Kabul. The crowd chanted Down with imperialism" and hrandished thousands of Kalash-

nikov assault rifles in the air.

"This march today is a demonstration to our enemies that we are stronger than ever," Najibullah said, as giant Ilyushin-76 transport planes took off into the clear winter sky above him, taking home Soviet troops or equip-

Artillery fire was clearly heard above his 20-mintue speech from the direction of Paghman, west of the Afghan capital.

Soviet sources say only a few hundred Soviet soldiers are left in Kabul, most of them guarding the

All are due to leave in the next few days in advance of the Feh. 15 deadline agreed at last April's Geneva talks. Several thousand more are to withdraw from Herat and Shindand in western Afghanistan early this coming week.

Shevardnadze told an airport news conference on his arrival that he was prepared for intensive negotiations on what he called a difficult and acute problem 10 days before the last Soviet troops were due to leave Afghanistan.

Western diplomats had said before Shevardnadze's arrival that there were high hopes he would bring something new in a hid to make a breakthrough on forging peace in Afghanistan.

The extension of his stay maintained those hopes, but neither Soviet nor Pakistani officials gave any hint of a possible breakthrough.

Relief appeal

Afghan Prime Minister Mohammad Hassan Sharq has appealed to the United Nations to organise emergency food relief to head off a "terrific disaster" in his wartorn nation, the official Bakhtar news agency reported Sunday

It quoted a Sharq letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar as saying that war, insecurity and bad weather led to a drop in Afghan food output of more than 50 per cent

Bakhtar, in a despatch received in Islamabad, gave no figures.

First French minister in Iran since 1979

Dumas, the first French minister to set foot in Iran since the revolution in 1979, arrived Sunday on a delicate mission aimed at speeding a return to normal French-Iranian relations.

In talks with Iranian leaders during his 36-hour stay, the French foreign minister will try to repair political and commercial ties which have dwindled in the turbulent decade since the fall of the Shah and the return from French exile of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Dumas's task is complicated by pressure from French humani rights activists and France's ruling Socialist Party to confront his hosts with widespread reports of mass executions of opponents. France and Iran severed di-

plomatic relations in July 1987 hut restored them last June following the release of the remaining French hostages held hy pro-

Iranian groups in Lehanon. Another delicate issue is France's role as the main military supplier of Iraq throughout the eight-year Gulf war.

Dumas will learn whether that alliance has jeopardised French efforts to win a share of the lucrative contracts for the rehuilding of Iran's war-shattered economy and infrastructure.

. France says it currently supplies only 1.2 per cent of the Iranian imports.

Dumas is not scheduled to meet Khomeini, who plotted his triumphant return to Iran 10 years ago in a villa outside Paris. But he will have talks with other Iranian leaders, including President Ali Khamenei, Parliamentary Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Iran is certain to press for a

over a \$1-billion loan made to France in 1975 by the Shah.

France stopped repayments when revolutionary Iran broke a contract linked to the loan to huy uranium from the French company Eurodif. The previous conservative government in Paris repaid \$630 million in 1986, while it was negotiating to free its hostages in Lebanon, but Iran now wants the halance.

One of the former hostages, journalist Jean-Paul Kauffman, added to the moral pressure on Dumas to raise human rights issues shortly before he left for Tehran.

He urged the foreign minister to discover the fate of Annie Esbert, a French nurse married to an Iranian exile who was captured with anti-Khomeini forces near the Iraqi frontier last year. Kauffman also alleged in a

conclusion to the nagging conflict radio interview Friday that Iran was "100 per cent" in control of the fate of the remaining Western hostages in Lehanon. "If he (Dumas) only comes

home with (husiness) contracts the visit will have been a failure. He should also bring back concrete results concerning human rights," Kauffman said. The human rights group

Amnesty International reported last week that more than 1,000 prisoners, mostly left-wingers, had been shot or hanged in Iran in the past six months. The French Socialist Party's executive hureau also called on

Dumas to raise the execution reports while in Tehran. The concern was shared in government circles. One senior official said hefore Dumas's departure that there was a "rise in repression against all types of

casualties and damage was light. opponents" in Iran. Mubarak, Cossiga meet in Aswan CAIRO (AP) - Italian President Francesco Cossiga arrived

dialling network.

Movement in the north.

Oman and the United Arah Emirates.

Sunday in the southern city of Aswan for a short stopover and held talks with President Hosni Muharak on bilateral relations as well as Middle East and African developments, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. MENA said the two presidents immediately started a round of talks which were attended hy Foreign Minister Esmat Ahdul Meguid and his Italian counterpart Giulio Andreotti. Cossiga arrived in the winter resort Aswan. 98 kilometres south of Cairo, on the first leg of a tour which will also take him to Kenya, Zamhia, Mozamhique, Zimhahwe and Somalia. MENA said that Cossiga would stop in Cairo in 10 days time at the end of his tour and meet with Muharak again.

Schlueter to visit Egypt next week

CAIRO (AP) - Poul Schlueter, Denmark's prime minister arrives here next Wednesday on a six-day official visit for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on hilateral relations and international issues, the Middle East News agency reported. MENA said Schlueter would discuss with Muharak and senior Egyptian officials developing hilateral relations as well as the situation in the Middle East and other international issues. It said the Danish prime minister would also visit ancient Egyptian monuments in Cairo and the southern town of Luxor. Danish newspapers said Schlueter would he accompanied by a trade delegation.

Benjedid due in Rabat on landmark visit Western Sabara. separation and the beginning of reduce tensions.

RABAT (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid starts a three-day state visit to Morocco Monday, signalling the end of more than a decade of tension over the Western Sahara conflict.

Both sides hope the first state visit between the two states for 20 years will move their relations out of the shadow of the desert war and foreshadow an era of regional cooperation.

King Hassan is preparing a lavish welcome designed to stress a common culture and shared Shortly after Algerian inde-

pendence in 1962, they fought a brief war over a frontier dispute. For the last 13 years Algeria has given military and political support to Polisario guerrillas fighting for independence for the Benjedid's visit is expected to.

be followed by a second round of direct talks between the king and Polisario leaders before a summit of all five Maghreh countries -Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Lihya and Mauritania - Feb. 15.

The timing of the three meetings has fuelled speculation that a em Sahara. Technically, the dispute is now in the hands of the United Nations which is organising a referendum of self-determination in the area.

The Moroccan press has hailed Benjedid's visit as a turning point in relations. The leftist daily Al Bayane said in a front-page editorial it represented "the definitive end of the Moroccan-Algerian

the elimination of its unhappy. consequences. Spain ceded most of the West-

ern Sahara to Morocco when it pulled out in 1976. Morocco now occupied more than four-fifths of the harren but mineral-rich area between Mauritania, Algeria and Morocco.

Algeria of trying to thwart its struggle to regain its territory from colonialist occupiers despite Morocco's support during the eight-year Algerian war of independence against France.

More than once the conflict hrought the two neighbours close to all-out war hut the pragmatic Benjedid, who came to power in 1979, has worked to tacts.

Analysts: say his priority has been to reform Algeria's inefficient oil-dominated economy and huild greater regional coopera-

The two leaders met on their border in 1983 and in 1987 in an effort to promote a peaceful solu-

May last year when Benjedid agreed to reestablish diplomatic ties without a prior settlement of the Saharan question and apparently increased pressure on Polisario to make concessions.

He received his reward when King Hassan agreed to meet a Polisario delegation in January for the first-ever face-to-face con-

Turkish activists seek to end live kidney sales The Humana Wellington Hos-ney transplants and 50,000 suf-

fered from chronic kidney dis-

of his association had bought

their kidneys, "I suspect so. But I

know better than to ask them

hecause none of them will talk

Asked whether some members

By Ayse Sarioglu
Reuter

ANKARA - Turkish campaigners say they believe a vast illegal trade exists in Turkey arranging for poor people to sell their kid-

neys for transplant.
"All conditions of a kidney market are present in Turkev. Mustafa Dursan Ozsaglam, chairman of the Turkish Association of Organ Transplant Patients, told Reuters.

He noted that some newspapers carried both kidney-wanted and kidney-for-sale advertisements and asked: "Can one

quiry. "This monstrous practice which we suspect is taking place on a large scale should be investigated by the state," he said.

The Justice Ministry, spurred
by the arrest of an alleged mid-

dleman accused of arranging sales of kidneys for transplant at a British hospital, has said it is looking into the charges.

Most of the members of Ozsaglam's private, non-profit organisation have family histories of kidney disease. One of his aides, Ismail Bek-

tas, who has three sessions a week on a kidney dialysis doubt there are intermediaries?". .machine, said a man approached. tion daily Hurriyet quoted two -lira (\$27).

Ozsaglam demanded a full in-uirv. "This monstrous practice sell him his kidney. men as saying they each had a kidney removed at London's pri-

"Even though I knew it was illegal, I would gladly have made the transaction if I had had the 10 million lira (\$5,300) demanded," Bektas, 24, told Reuters. "In hospital I have seen men

who approach patients and show them blood and tissue test results of unknown donors whose kidneys could be transplanted if they matched. These people were obviously intermediaries," he

Ozsaglam's campaign for an inquiry was given added weight in January when the mass-circula-

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

vate Humana Wellington Hospital, and were paid £2,000 (\$3,500).

Tunc Ay Kunter has been charged with being a middleman in the alleged sale of the kidneys. He faces four years in jail if convicted under a 1979 law which bans the sale of live organs and applies to donors, doctors and middlemen.

One way of hy-passing the law, which allows live organ transplants between first-degree blood relatives, is by procuring false birth records. News reports say these can be obtained for 50,000

pital denied British press reports that it had paid Turks to give kidneys for transplant. It said Ahmet Koc, one of the men quoted by Hurriyet, signed a consent form hefore surgery.

Ozsaglam, 44, himself the recipient of a kidney from someone who had died, said he received several threatening telephone calls after he appeared on television to condemn the trade. "They told me to keep silent or

would be dealt with. I am not afraid. I have dedicated my life to this cause," he said.
Ozsaglam said an estimated -10,000 Turks were awaiting kid- problem."

The senior doctor at Ankara's

DEPARTURES

openly.

organ transplant hospital, which performs an average of two kidney transplants a month, said it had received kidney offers for cash but rejected all of them. The doctor, Huseyin Gulay, added: "This is a social and economic

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

..... Baghdad (IA)
..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

Sana'a (LH)

... Cairo (MS

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JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	
15:45 Children's programmes	
17:10 High Moniain Rangers	
18:00 News summary in Arabic	
18:05 Warld News	
18:20 Arabic series	
19:15 Local programme	
19:40 Programme review	
20:06 News in Arabic	
20:30 Arabic series	
21:35 Programme review	
21:45 Monday Forum	
22-20 Variety show	
23:00 News summary in Arabic	
23;10 Variety show (contd.)	
20,10 mmm, validity silon (some)	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30 Le Monde est A Vuus	
19:00 News in French	
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19,30 News in Hehrew	
19:45 Varieties	
20:30 Allo Allo	
21:00 So you want to stop smoking	
21:10 Jack and Mike	
22:00 News in English	
22:20 Jewel in the Crown	
AND THE PROPERTY OF THE USE CHOWIT	
PRAYER TIMES	

Fajr (Suarse) Duha

Dhuhr

17:16 Maghreb 18:35 'Isha CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590 637440. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasanta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543. Armenias Calhulle Church Tel. Armenius Orthodux Church Tel.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751,

Amman International Church Tel 685326.

Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 811295. Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bullatin supplied by the Department of

The effect of the cold mass will decrease gradually. Though, frost is expected in the early morning. During the day, it will be sunny and another rise in temperature is expected. Winds

will be light and variable. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 23, Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 20 per

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Kaved Khalavfeh Dr. Tssa Haddad Dr Mohammad 'Azzam Fires pharmacy Ferdows pharmacy .
Al Asema pharmacy Nairoukh pharmacy Al Salam pharmacy. 623672 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 637660

Dr. Jamal Bani Hani (--) Al Sharaa' pharmacy (985238) ZARQA: Dr. Karam Haddad .. Khalifeh pharmacy **EMERGENCIES**

Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate	AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/3
Rescue 630341	
Tivil Defence Emergency 199	Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777	Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/
Fire Brigade	Jabal Amman Moternity 64236
Blood Bank	Malhas, J. Amman 63614
Highway Police843402	Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/
Fraffic Police	Shmeisani Hospital 66913
	University Hospital 84584
Public Security Department 656000 / 685111	Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/
	The Islamic, Abdali 666127/3
Hotel Complaints 605800	Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/
Price Complaints	Ittalian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/
Water and Sewerage: Complaints	Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafish 775111/2
Complaints 897467	
A	Army, Marka 891611/1
Complaints	Queen Alia Hospital 602240/5
Telephone Information	Atnal Hospital 67415
(directory assistance) 12	ZARQA:
Overseas Calls	Zarga Govi Hospital (09)98332
Central Ammun Telephone	Zarqa Govt Hospital (09)98332 Zarqa National Hospital (09)991(7
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	Ibn Sinz Hospital (09)98673

Princess Basma Hospital ... (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)275275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100 Radio Jordan . Jordan Electricity Authority ... 8156t5 AQABA: Electric Power Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111 . 636381 MARKET PRICES Queen Alia Intl. Airport..... 08-52000 HOSPITALS Upper/lower price in fils per kg. ple 500 / 450 lana 350 / 300 edical Centre 813813/ ternity, J. Amn ... 644281 ernity, J. Amn 64241 an Moternity 6423

813813/32	Banana (Mukammar) 300 / 250
644281/6	Beans 650 / 550
642441/2	Broad beans 800 / 700
642362	Cabbage 170 / 140
636140	Carrots
664171/4	Cauliflower 220 / 170
669 131	Cucumbers 540 / 440
845845	Dales 600 / 500
667227/9	Eggpiani 240 / 180
666127/37	Garlic 250 / 200
664164/6	Grapetruit 210 / 170
777101/3	Letnon 250 / 200
	Lettuce (per one) 140 / 100
775111/26	Manager (160 - 160)
. 8916t1/15	Marrow (large) 350 / 300
602240/50	Marrow (small) 500 / 400
674155	Orange (Shammouti) 380 / 300
	Orange (local) 250 / 200
(09)983323	Onion (dry) 230 / 180
(09)991071	Onion (green) 260 / 200
(09)986732	Pepper (bot) 640 / 580
(42)200125	- oppor (not)
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FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEE ALIA
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

 Pepper (sweet)
 500 / 400

 Potato
 250 / 200

 Spinach
 170 / 120

 Mandarie
 360 / 300

..... 210 / 140

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RI) information department at the Oueen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it

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10:15	Larnaca (
16:45	Cairo (
17:30	New York, Vienna (Casablanca, Tunis (
18:10	Casablanca, Tunis

..... Bangkok (RJ)

ARRIVALS

(Terminal (1) Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ) Cairo (RJ) Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ) Baghdad (RJ) Jeddah (RJ) . Cairo (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal (2)

Cairo, London (BA)
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BRIEF

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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING, PRINCE MOHAMMAD CONDOLE: His Majesty King Hussein Sunday delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid to convey bis condolences to Khreis family over the death of the late Ali Khreis. His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of King Hussein, also delegated the director of his office to convey his condolences to Khreis family. (Petra)

KING RECEIVES MITTERRAND'S CABLE: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a cahle of good wishes from the French President François Mitterrand, who was flying over the Jordanian airspace. Mitterraod wished King Hussein continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

RIFAI RECEIVES SYRIAN CABLE: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday received a cable of good wishes from Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zu'bi, who was flying over the Jordanian airspace en route to Yemen Arah Republic.

British parties agree on Palestinian rights. visiting MPs say

By Najwa Najjar Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN -- After a long period of differing views. Britain's ruling Conservative Party and the opposition Labour Party now see eye-to-eye on the need for a just and comprehensive solution of the Palestinian problem based on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, according to two visiting British parliamentarians.

"We are in complete agreement on (the Palestinian) issue... evident in a recent debate on the Palestinian issue held in the House of Commons," said Conservative Member of Parliament (MP) Richard Page Sunday, Page is part of a six-member parliamentary delegation, which has just completed a five-day fact finding visit to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Labourite Roger Scott, another member of the delegation, noted

Resolutions 242 and 338 and renunciation of violence. 'We will go back to persuade our government, which doesn't need a lot of persuasion, to encourage Israel to recognise the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." said

that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had met with the

"British conditions," which included acceptance of United Nations

The governments of Britain and the United States have already opened a dialogue on the Middle East, Scott said. Both Scott and Page expressed hope that the European Economic Community (EEC) and the U.S. would persuade Israel to recognise the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including the right to live within secure borders. While recognising that Israel also has the right to secure borders. "this can come about only if Israel is willing to come to (an) international peace conference hosted by the U.N. Security Council permanent members. Scott said.

Both MPs said their recent experience in the occupied territories confirmed that that the Palestinian people fully support the PLO and accept the existence of Israel. Wherever we went there was the acceptance of the state of Israel and that at some time or another, there would he two independent states cooperating

together," said Page.

Recent proposals floated by Israeli leaders, including those hased on the 1979 Camp David agreements, are not acceptable to the Palestinians. Scott observed, stressing that the Palestinians are staunchly against any plan that falls short of self-determination. "Camp David is unacceptable because it does not answer the

question of a Palestinian state, and nothing less than that will do...
the Palestinians ow have state and a flag," he said.
The delegation visited several hospitals, camps, professional associations and met with individuals from all stratas of the Palestinian society in the occupied territories, but the MPs' request to meet with Israeli officials was turned down by the Israeli government. They (the Israeli government) found that (such a meeting) was impossible, saying our schedules could oot meet,"

Although the delegation did not witness any demoostrations, we saw the victims of severe hrutality," said Scott, citing one particular "horrifying" case of an eight-year-old, Mahmoud Bisharat, at Al Ittihad hospital in Nablus. The case was lahelled a 'mystery accident." When the two parliamentarians saw the boy, he was so hurnt on his hand and face that he looked like he was dunked in a bucket of black paint," said Page.

"According to Mahmoud, and reaffirmed by his mother, he picked up a small silver covered har, which he thought was a chocolate har, and the har exploded," said Scott, adding that they were later shown a small story in the Jerusalem Post which reported that Israel had been using phosphorous bombs.
"The innfada has shown the world that Palestinians have been living under brutal occupation." Scott said.

Page, who was in the region last September, noted that despite the increase in Israeli brutality the innifada in the occupied territories had gained strength, "and the people are more deter-

The MPs said they believe that the intifada has had ao effect on the British people as reflected in the narrowing of differences between their respective parties. Until the innifada, "the parties were slightly pro-Israeli, hut as was seen last year, there is no party difference," said Page.

Scott added: "Quite a lot of people in Britain have awakened to the existence of a problem in the occupied territories and that

Israel is behaving in an atrocious way. When they return to England, the members of the delegation have a hriefing session with the foreign secretary and will hold a public press conference. In addition there are several projects which the delegation plans to present to the Overseas Development Agency (ODA), including funding for a hiscuit factory in Gaza. Civil rights issues under the Israeli occupation rule will also be pursued.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bullerins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An agricultural exhibition displaying agricultural equipment and products at the Professional Association Complex.
- ☆ A computer exhibition displaying a new line of computers with greater performance and new power at Marriott Hotel in
- ★ The Arab book exhibition that includes books on different topics at Yarmouk University.

☆ An exhibition of Korean photos, books and handicrafts at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

☆ A film entitled "Raising Arizona" which is shown as part of the American Centre's 1989 film festival at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

☆ A four-day seminar on photography supervised by photographer Francis Chaverou at the French Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

LECTURE

☆ A lecture in Arabic on T.V. documentation of Islamic arts and archaeology by Adnan Al Ramahi and Hassan Abu Ghuneimeh at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation - 6:30 p.m.

New batch of nurses, midwives to graduate

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, thirty seven nurses and forty midwives will receive their degrees from their respective colleges, on Monday Feb. 6, 1989.

The graduation ceremony will be held at the Palace of Culture in Al Hussein Sports

The colleges are: Jordan College of Nursing in Amman, Irbid College of Nursing and Midwifery and the Zarqa Col-

lege of Nursing and Midwifery. The Jordan College of Nursing in Amman was established in 1952 as a school of midwifery which changed into a college of nursing in 1966, according to the stipulation of law number 68 which outlined the acceptance policy and opened the college to male applicants.

The school of midwifery at the college was initiated for established nurses in 1977 and was later affiliated with the college in 1978.

The Irhid College of Nursing and Midwifery was established in 1984 and graduated its first class in 1986

The Zarqa College of Nurs-ing and Midwifery was estab-lished in 1981 and graduated its

first class in 1986. Duration of study for midwifery is three academic years with intensive training over 27

Duration of study for nursing is four academic years with intensive training over 36 continuous months.

Duration of study for established nurses to acquire a degree in midwifery is 12 continuous months.

Graduates acquire a diploma in midwifery or a diploma in nursing and specialised diploma for established nurses studying midwifery.
Students enrolled in the col-

leges are considered scholarship students of the Ministry of Health and are provided with a uniform and a monthly salary of JD 40. Students are also provided with housing and

In 1989, the graduates from the Jordan College of Nursing will be 34 midwives and 33 nurses; from the Irbid College of Nursing and Midwifery. three midwives and two nurses, while from the Zarga College of Nursing and Midwifery, three midwives and two nurses.

The graduation ceremony,



Lamia Youssif Ahmad, representative of the graduates. Samira Qomog, president of the Jordan College of Nursing, and Minister of Health Zuhair

Queen Noor initiated many projects aimed at developing health services in the Kingdom most prominent of which are Health and Communications for Child Survival programme and The Institute for Child Health and Development, both projects of Noor Al Hussein

Jordan, Iraq and Egypt to discuss maritime bridge company operations

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A technical committee set up by Ministers of Transport in Jordan, Iraq and Egypt will hold a meeting in Ammao Thursday to discuss matters pertaining to the Arab Maritime Bridge Company (AMBC) and its operations, according to an official announcement bere Sunday.

The announcement said that the committee, which groups the million. under-secretaries of the three ministries, will examine measures to sumulate the company's operations and study plans for the

The ministers of transport in

Jordan, Egypt and Iraq met in Cairo last December where they discussed means of promoting the company's operations which hegan in early 1988. The company's general assem-

bly earlier approved a 1989 budget which includes a total revenue of \$69.761 million and an overall expenditure of \$58.479 million, with a surplus of \$11.281

The company last year transported 600,000 passengers and 40,000 tonnes of goods in addition to 35,000 vehicles ahoard ferry boats via the Nweibeh-Agaha land sea route.

The company was established iowards the end of 1987 to promote trade and transportation operations between the three coun-

Meanwhile it was announced here Sunday that a team from the Egyptian Maritime Transportation Corporation will arrive in Amman Monday to discuss matters related to the transportation of passengers between Egypt and

The talks, to be conducted with the ministry of transport officials, will tackle issues pertaining to the Agaha-Nweibeh sea land route.

Government to compensate farmers

Other reports in the local press

said that most damages affected

vegetables and other crops in the

northern valley region and part of

the central regions. One report said that in the past two days

temperatures in some parts of the

valley dropped to minus 6 Cel-

of the potatoes, marrows, toma-

damaged.

whose crops were damaged by frost those that should be compen-AMMAN - Nearly 1,000 far- was held at the Ministry of Agrisated, the paper said. It said that mers in the Jordan Valley whose culture to make assessments of damages in the Jordan Valley were estimated at JD 25 million. crops sustained severe damage as the damages before the order will

a result of the frost that has been past mooth will receive compeosation from the government, according to a report in Sawt Al Shaab daily on Sunday.

be given for offering compensa-

The meeting was held to review a report submitted by the Director of Agriculture in the Jordan Valley region, Mazeo Khasaw-The paper said that a meeting och, containing the names of

N. Yemeni companies seek to buy Jordanian products

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A number of companies and organisations in North Yemeo have expressed desire to purchase certain Jordaniae commodities and industrial products, according to statement hy the Ministry of

Industry and Trade in Amman. It said that the North Yemeoi mercbants are interested in buying Jordan's plastic and textile products, shoes, furniture, kitchens and wood products.

Accordingly, the Amman Chamber of Industry has circulated the request to Jordaniao businesses and factories sounding out their views and requesting that the chamber be supplied with samples of their products to be forwarded to North Yemeni im-

porters to decide on the quantines of products they wish to buy. The announcement follows last month's mening in Amman by the joint Jordaoian-North Yemeni Higher Committee co-chaired by

the prime ministers of the two countries. The committee agreed oo a number of measures to hoost trade and increase cooperation in educational, agricultural, indust-

rial, scieonfic and other fields. In addition, Jordan will organise a national industrial fair in Sana'a and North Yemen will hold a similar fair in Amman during 1989 with products to he

sold directly to the public or to the respective governments hosting the fair.

7 die in road accidents during last week of January

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A total and the injury of 107 others. of 238 road accidents occurred in the Kingdom in the last week of January 1989, resulting in the death of seven citizens and the injury of 142 others, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department (PSD). The bulletin said that the total number of accidents in the previous week stood at 247, resulting in the death of 12 people road accidents and a fire.

Careless driving and overtak-ing at the wrong momeot were blamed for most of the accidents.

Meanwhile, a report in the local press Sunday said that four other people were killed in the past two weeks in Amman and other towns. One of the cases resulted from suicide in Karak while the others resulted from

Jordan to attend Islamic **Chamber of Commerce talks**

AMMAN (Petra) - Jordan will meeting and an executive committee meeting of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry which will open Monday in Abu Dhabi. Participants in the four-day meeting will discuss economic cooperation and ways to increase the volume of trade exchange among Islamic countries.

They will also discuss a Jordanian proposal for promoting the role of specialised federations and creating sectoral economic groupings within the Islamic World.

Jordan's proposal falls for the take part in a general assembly establishment of specialised federations that would take care of transport operations among Arab and Islamic nations and promote the phosphate, potash and fertiliser industries in the Islamic World.

> Ahmad Ghuneim, a member of the board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Commerce is representing Jordan at the meeting. The chamber had been set up

hy the Organisation of Islamic



Queen Noor will award de-

grees to the graduates and Royal prizes for the honour students



Regent opens 1st agricultural exhibition

'Cooperation essential for agricultural success'

AMMAN (Petra) - The first agricultural exhibition by the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association (JAEA) opened Sunday at the Professional Association Complex in Amman under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Prince Hassan delivered a speech in which he emphasised the importance of modernisation and inter-linking of knowledge in the process of developing the Kingdom's agriculture in all its

to make the agricultural process a appropriate incentives for that success. "In our regional meetings and conferences, we normally discuss a rescheduling of our to move into the field and the sectoral priorities in a bid to place of work."

achieve the maximum benefit and give a real impetus 10 our de-velopment process." Prince Hassan noted.

The Regent urged Jordanian professional associations and institutions to adopt the idea of He called for close cooperation among various concerned sectors creating what is called "Applied engineering," thus providing matter "with a view to helping our engineers and our technicians

Prince Hassan hoped that the exhibition will spur the concerned authorities and associations to set up a permanent agricultural exhibition where professionals and farmers and crop growers can meet and hold dialogues. Later, the Agricultural En-gineers Association president

presented the Regent with the association's shield.

On display at the exhibition are samples of locally produced agri-cultural and animal farm products, as well as farm equipment.

A total of 35 agricultural companies from Jordan and the Arab World are taking part in the three-day exhibition along with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Royal Scientific Society

All industrial premises in Sahab are occupied — Suheimat

named after His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, in accordance with a decision taken by the Jordanian Iodustrial Estates Corporatioo (JIEC) Sunday.

The JIEC is in charge of the industrial city, as well as the Sahah Industrial City (SIC) near industries. Suheimat added.

General Fayez Suheimat rial husinesses drew up contracts announced Sunday that all hangars and huildings huilt for in- for their works at the SIC. dustrial concerns and factories in SIC have been occupied, and no more space is available for rent or JD 70 million - providing employ-

sale there. A report in Al Ra'i Arabic It had been expected that the second stage of the SIC would be daily said up to 80 per cent of the hanana crop in the valley has sufficient for all investors until been lost and oearly 60 per cent the year 1991, "but the great demand on facilities and installatoes and eggplants were also tions by investors and industrialists made this impossible, and the furniture, huilding materials and

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The industrial city in Irhid will be pectations," Suheimat said. A total of 154 industrial

businesses have already been established at the SIC of which 50 were set up after Aug. 13, 1988, following the government's economic measures designed 10 boost and stimulate the national ment.

Meanwhile, JIEC Director weeks of 1989 a total of 13 industwith the JIEC to take up space

So far, he said, the total investment at SIC is estimated at over ment for more than 4,000 people in various trades and specialisa-

The SIC businesses produce and process food supplies, pharmaceuticals, chemical plastic. rubber, leather, textile products,

other commodities for local consumption and export.

Suheimat said that the JIEC has a number of plots of land provided with hasic services and infrastructure that can he let at nominal rates or sold at competitive prices with facilities in pay-

The JIEC. Suheimat added, is currently studying the prospect of huilding new industrial cities to meet the fast-growing demand hy industrial investors.

Suheimat also announced that Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid will accept applications from in-

vesiors as of April 1989. The Al Hassan Industrial Ciry in Irhid, he explained, has made available hangars, buildings and other installations set up on 30,000-square-metres, and has fully-serviced plots of land for

ease to industrialists.

European film week begins Feb. 10

By Rania Atalla Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - In an attempt to reioforce cultural links hetween Europe and the Middle East, the delegation of the European Commission and the emhassies of the Europeao Community (EC) will launch the secood European film festival at the Royal Cultural Ceetre (RCC) on Feb. 10. along with a photograph and painting exhibition of Euro-

pean marketplaces and plazas. The films to be screened at the festival represent a cross section of the latest European dramane and comic productions - films that are oormally not available at cioemas in Jordan, according to Christian Falkowski, the representative of the EC Commission in Amman.

"The festival presents an opportunity for people to have access to films outside the television domain," Falkowski told an informal gathering of reporters Suoday, attended by the Spanish Ambassador in Amman Ramon Armengod.

Given that the Spanish government is currently holding the presidency of the EC. the festival will start with the Spanisb 1984 comedy "Tasio." This movie by Montxo Armendariz portrays the rural upbringing of a coalmaker who takes to poaching soon after his marriage leading to a cordial relationship with his old enemy, the game keeper.

The Dutch 1977 film "Soldier of Orange" will be shown on Saturday Feb. 11. Directed hy Paul Verhoeven, this movie is a screen version of Erik Roelfzeman's autobiographical account of the friendship of a

group of young students at Leiden University in 1939. Their carefree days are shattered by the German invasion of the Netherlands, and some flee to London to join the resistance. Others become 'traitors." In the midst of the intrigue, Queen Wilhelmina, in exile in Britain, issues special instructions to the hero of the story.

"Ginger and Fred," released in 1985 in Italy, will be shown on Sunday Feb. 12. This comedy by Frederico Fellini introduces a mysterious dream world of relevision, which at times turns into reality with magnificent studio effects. Fellini uses Gioger and Fred, famous top-dancers, as a vehicle for the mystery tour.

Jean-Jacques Annaud's "The Name of the Rose," represents France's contribution to the festival, which will be shown on Feb. 13. This 1986 movie, starring Sean Connery, is based on Umherto Eco's novel on mysterious deaths in a 14th century Benedictine monastery. Brother William and the young novice Adso da Melk learn who is the strange killer on the loose who marks his victims with curious signs. The truth is revealed just as the suspects are about to be burned at the stake.

The United Kingdom's 1987 "A Month in the Country," to be shown Tuesday, Feb. 14, tells a story of two ex-soldiers who return to the remote village of Oxgodhy following World War I. One of them hecomes facinated by a mediaeval wall painting which he discovers, the other by the search for the unmarked grave of his 14th century ancestor. Both suffer terrible memories.

The grim vicar is hostile, but his beautiful wife develops a passion as the secret of the

mediaeval painting unfolds. Belgium's 1983 "Benvenu-ta." to be shown Wednesday Feb. 15, tells the story of a young film maker who persuades a reclusive novelist (Jeanne) living in Ghent, to adapt a previously published. and somewhat scandalous book for filming. That the book is autobiographical becomes increasingly evident as Jeaone recounts the story of a doomed love between an ageing Italian magistrate and a young pianist. "Benvenuta." (Welcome) is directed by Andre Delvaux.

The West German 1985 comedy "Men" (Manner) tells the story of Julius. a Munich advertising executive who discovers that his wife of 12-year, Paula, is having an affair with a graphic artist, Stefan. Disguising his identity. Julius moves in with Stefan and obsessively spies on the ups and down of the romance. Julius exacts a sort of revenge. The story, directed hy Doris Doerrie, teeters precariously hetween tenderness and violence.

Greece's contribution. "Underground passage," will be shown on the last day, Friday Feh. 17. This Apostolos Doxiadis drama has two story strands which gradually converge. One involves the frustrations, attempted suicide. and secret relationships with an old activist friend from the dictator years, of the wife of the film's central hero, the minister of industrial development. The second is political: A movement, headed by an old friend of the minister.

presses for the closure of a factory making toxic waste in his constituency. A possibility exists that the activist and his uncle may become involved in the matter.

The films, which can be seen free of charge at 8:00 every evening, are subtitled in English. Members of the public are advised to obtain the tickets from the RCC ahead of

Furthermore, and as a new

addition to this year's film festival, the EC delegation has arranged with the Ministry of Education to show documentary films about Europe 10 school students during the matinees. Those movies, to be shown also at the RCC, will run from Feb. 11 to The "Town Square of

Europe" exhibition, which is open to the public free of charge, features 39 squares. plazas and marketplaces in the 12 EC countries, presented in a series of panels with photographs, water-colour plans and text. The history and development of the town square spans the ages from ancient Greece, through Roman and Medieval tadition, the Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque periods, to Neo-Classicism and contemporary urhan design.

Familiar architectural subjects, such as the Champs Elysees in Paris and Covent Garden in London, as well as other lesser known centres of community life, reflect the cultural, social and political importance of the town square.

The EC delegation plans to put the exhibition on display at the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University in the near future.

Jordan Times

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Looking beyond Jordan

THERE are many valid academic submissions in favour of relaxing the government's grip on private institutions of learning in Jordan. Such views have been amply aired and reviewed nn more than one occasion and they all point to the need to give nur private schools more breathing space to upgrade their intellectual excellence. Yet there are other considerations that need to be taken in this regard and which appear to be wantonly disregarded by the concerned authorities. These added factors have to do with Jordan's emerging role as a Middle Eastern centre for education in lieu of Lebanon. It is common knowledge now that in view of the continuing crisis in Lebanon, the Middle Eastern countries are looking to Jordan to replace that country as a haven for private schooling. The political and economic environment in the Kingdom has earned high marks for excellence and as conducive to the proliferation of private education free of stagnating bureaucracy and regulation. This is not to mention the enviable climatic conditions in this country that fare very well to educational and intellectual pursuits. In other words, our concerned anthorities are respectfully asked to remember that private schooling in Jordan is not catering only to Jordanian educational needs but rather have regional aspirations as well. There are pressing needs therefore to loosen up the tight reigns that are being imposed on our private schools, the reigns that have been commonly characterised as suffocating and interfering with the regional scope of these schools. For these reasons and purposes, our private institutes of elementary and secondary education must be allowed enough freedom in prescribing their curricula, standard of education, methods of teaching and holidays to meet the requirements of the whole Middle Eastern region. Otherwise, the horizon of our private schools will remain provincial and limited. No one who laves this country and its aspired place and role in the Middle East would want that to happen. The case of liberalising regulations governing the operation of Jordanian private schools is therefore vindicated on more than one score. At least this matter deserves a fresh scrutiny in the light of Jordan's regional educational

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JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THREE mediation efforts are underway now to bring about peace to the troubled Middle East region, said Al Ra'i Arahic daily in its editonal Sunday. The paper said that the on-going Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation, the Arah League efforts to settle the Lebanese issue and the U.N. Secretary General's endeavours to revive the peace process between Iraq and Iran are all indicators that the wind of peace and stability is finally blowing towards this region. The uprising which coters its 15th month in a few days nime has strengthened the international community's belief that a just and durable peace should be made to dominate the Middle East so that it can contribute towards wurld peace and security, the paper said. The Arab mediation efforts to end the conflict in Lebanon and the U.N. Secretary General's hids to hring the Iraq and Iran together to discuss peace are good omens for the region and they revive the feeling of optimism in the hearts of millions of penple, the paper noted. It said that the world community seems to be truly interested now in the establishment of peace which gives impetus for further progress and development.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the proposed Arab Cooperation Council which will group Jordan, North Yemen, Egypt and Iraq — describing it as an economic bloc intended to enhance the Arab Nation's status among world nations. The projected bloc is intended mit as a political alliance but simply as a form of close cooperation and economic integration that can enhance the Arah Nation's economic and social stand, and open the way for unity among Arah states, says Mahmoud Al Rimawai. The writer says that the proclamation of the regional bloc should be paved fur through an intensive information campaign to focus light oo the benefits of such grouping, the potential which is sought and the far-reaching targets it aims to achieve. Talking about such grouping in the press and the other forms of information media, the writer adds, should be void of emotions, and must rather concentrate nn facts and figures, and nn concrete benefits and fruits which such close cooperation can yield.

The Israeli authorities are once again resorting to killing children in the occupied Arah territories in further pursuit of harharic policies against the Palestinian people, thanks to the support the Jewish state enjoys from a superpower, said Al Dustour Arabic daily in an editorial Sunday. The paper referred to the on-going brutal attacks on the Arab children in Palestine as an undeclared sentence for the execution of Arahs as ordered by Israel's Defence Minister Yitzhak Rahin and implemented by Zionist troops. The paper said that the killing of children is an expression of hatred and a racist exercise against the innocent children who are rebelling for their freedom. Condoning Israel's actions and providing it with protection for the atrocities through the umbrella of the U.N. Security Council vetoes, added the paper, can only encourage the Jewish state to go ahead with its present

Sawt Ai Shaab daily in its Sunday's editorial commended the current favourable atmosphere in the Arah World which it said is marked by cooperation to serve the higher nanonal interest. The paper cited a statement by the Syrian foreign minister in which he paid tribute to the Egyptian leadership as a fruit of inter-Arah endeavours to end differences between Damascus and Cairo. It said that Egypt which is backing Arab causes and serving the higher national interest in word and deed, should be welcomed back into the Arab fold, and must he made to participate in Arab summit meetings where Arah leaders can chart a strategy to protect their nation's interests.

repressive policies against the Palestinian people.

Weekly Political Pulse

Superpower detente — catalyst for Mideast peace

IT APPEARS that the Russian bear has been hi bernating during much of the Middle East season even though the rest of the world has been hyper-active in the Arab-Israeli affairs ever since the eruption of the Palestinian uprising in December, 1987. One explanation for this Soviet attitude could be found in the proposition that Moscow has become quite introvert ever since Soviet President Mikhail Gurhachev assumed power four years ago. Everywhere one looks one sees a constant pattern of Soviet retraction from its previous "commitments" and high profile on the international arena. The first firm signal of this Soviet "shrinkage" came from Afghanistan where President Gorbachev openly and boldly reversed the "expansionist" policies of former Soviet leaders. The rapid withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan has no parallel with Vietnam where the U.S. was also forced to withdraw after many years of sustained military effort. The marked difference between the two situations is too nhvious: Vietnam is not near continental U.S. by any stretch of the mind. On the other hand, Afghanistan is night next to the Soviet belly. Yet Moscow decided to cut its losses and ran out. It is very doubtful that the U.S. would bave noted for a similar course has it been involved in a nation that is so geographically proximate to its heartland. If there was a singular important story in this Gorbachevian policy towards the outside world it is the paramount Soviet decision to totally preoccupy itself with its own internal matters at the expense of all other considerations. including, if necessary, Warsaw Pact affairs. The relaxation of the ties between Moscow and its allies within the Warsaw alliance.

including the reduction of the Soviet military posture in Eastern Europe is but another forceful message from the Soviet Union that there is nothing so important as domestic concerns henceforth. With its economy in shambles and political development in ruins after so many decades of paralysis and stagnation. Soviet President Gorbachev soon felt the faint pulse of the Soviet traditional experiment and decided to act before it was too late,

If the Soviet Union found it in its national interest to withdraw from Afghanistan and elsewhere and to begin the process of regrouping within even the Warsaw alliance, is it surprising then that it has become coy towards the Middle East problems? In view of the high cost of restructuring and revitalising the Soviet economy on the basis of the internationally acclaimed Soviet "perestrnika", it is very unlikely that the Soviet Union would allow itself to drift into any "adventurist" policies in the quagmire of the Middle East or accept to maintain the high level of military and economic aid that it had hitherto sustained in the region as well as elsewhere in the developing world.

On top of all the man-made disasters that have befell the Soviet Union such as the 1987 Chernobyl nuclear accident, there were nther untaild numbers of disasters - natural and otherwise - that afflicted the country. These ranged from physical eartbquakes, that devastated regions like Armenia and Tajikistan, to political quakes that touched some nf the southern and western flanks of the USSR, especially ever since the inception of Gorbachev's policy of liberalisation. The emerging picture of the Soviet Union

in the late eighties portrays a country that is beleaguered and vulnerable rather than a hastion nation confidently and resolutely marching on. No wander then the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the idea of convening an international peace conference, has been moved to the hack burner in Moscow and does not figure very prominently on the current Soviet list of priorities. It is therefore natural from the Soviet point of view that all the commotion that is being made internationally to deal head on with the Palestine case has not made many upples in the Soviet capital. If anything, the Soviet priorities require now the cultivation of Israeli and Jewish connections in order to receive the most favoured nation trade treatment from the Western economic hlocs and the relaxation of embargoes on the transfer of high technology to the Eastern Bloc Seen against this backdrop, Moscow has been the prime mover behind the sense of moderation that is sweeping through the Middle East. Many knowledgeahle observers even go to the extent of giving credit to the Soviet Union for the bold peace initiatives recently promulgated by the PLO. In this vein, the Soviet Union is better positioned to deliver the heartland of the Arab World, whereas the U.S. would remain better poised to deliver the Israeli side in any last dramanic chapters of the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. That is why hoth sides to the Arab-Israeli conflict bave a stake in the continuation of the growing detente between the superpowers. Should Washington-Moscow rapprochement gets thwarted or derailed, the first casualty could very well be the resolution of the Arab-Israeli

Israeli army: A crisis of confidence

By Glenn Frankel

TEL AVIV — The Israeli army, the country's most revered institution, is mired in a crisis of confidence as it gropes to find a way to suppress the nearly 14month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Some senior officers and many analysts contend that the uprising bas interfered with training, damaged mnrale and threatened to create a generation of reluctant, anxiety-nidden officers and men wbo could refuse in take the initiative at a shooting war.

The result, they contend, is an army increasingly in conflict not just with the Palestinians but with itself - with the complex riotcontrol mission it has been assigned, with the elaborate written orders for using force that many soldiers conteod are unrealistic, and with the country's civilian leaders who insist that the army produce a military solutioo to a problem whose roots and essence are political.

A verbal confrontation earlier

in January hetween Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and angry reserve members of a paratroop unit in the West Bank ciry of Nablus summed up for many soldiers just how desperate the situation has become. The reservists complained that they could not accomplish their missioo and were forced by circumstances to violate orders and brutalise Palestinians.

"The paratroopers are our elite, and the message they delivered is what a lot of us feel." said Yadin Roman, a Jerusalem magazine editor and reserve deputy brigade commander. "The message is that we are losing and the Palestinians are winning. There's geoeral feeling that this isn't our joh, and we doo't know how to do this. Our job is to train for war.'

None of the army's methods of riot control appear to be succeeding in reducing the number of violent incidents or Palestinian casualties.

Plasoc bullets, the purportedly nonlethal ammunition that some commanders hailed as the ultimate solution, have killed 47 Palestinians in the last five months and proven so controversial that some senior officers and legal officials are questioning whether the orders governing their use are

legal.
Three weeks ago, Defence
Minister Yitzhak Rabin expelled 15 Palestinians who were said to be ringleaders of the uprising. It detention Faisal Husseini, a was the largest number of Palestinians in be deported.

closed-door session of a parliamentary committee that the deportatino measure, nne of the harshest used by Israel, generally had proven ineffective. Given the lack of an effective

nint-control tool, the army has alternated in recent weeks between contradictory security tactics, sometimes switching abruptly from harsh measures to softer ones and back again within the same week.

The army reopened all public schools in the West Bank in December but closed them again a few weeks later. It announced it was greatly expanding the pool of soldiers allowed to fire plastic hullets, then issued directives the oext weekend sharply limiting use of the hullets.

The Defence Mioistry announced it would seek longer prison senteoces for agitators and then released from administrative

WHAT DID YOU

DO IN THE OCCUPIED-

TERRITORIES RIOTS,

DADDHZ

Palestinian whom Rabin bad branded nne nf the mnst danger-Last week, Rahin, told a ous nperatives in the West Bank. There is a growing frustration

in the Defeoce Ministry," said Yaron Ezrachi, a political scientist at Hebrew University. "The minister of defence is trapped in a situation where he defined for himself - and others defined for him - an unachievable solution: to stop the uprising."

Army frustration over its essence it expresses the struggle

"The message is that we are losing and the Palestinians are winning. There's a general feeling that this isn't our job, and we don't know how to do this. Our job is to train for

assigned role of riot police has of nationalism." been evident from the first weeks of the uprising in December 1987. What has changed now — after parting shot as he announced bis over 360 Palestiolan and 15 retirement as head of the army's Israeli deaths— is that the dam-

General Menachem Einan, in a

age the generals were privately

warning about then has begun to

occur, and that the commanders

themselves are far more willing to

oant General Dan Sbnmron,

started it two weeks ago when he

told a parliamentary committee

that although the army might be

able to hold down the violence.

"there is no such thing as eradi-

cating the uprising because in its

The army chief of staff, Lieute-

say so publicly.

papers: "I am very worried by the level of morality among soldiers. I think we foster a bad mixture nf youthful urges with the authority tn use force. We are exposing the individual to provocations - and maliciousness surfaces tno

quickly.' Most of all, there is the frustration nf seeing one of the world's most highly rated war machines bogged down in a battle against teen-age stnne-throwers.

One of General Shomron's leading aides, Majnr General Moshe Bar Kocbba, reflected this when be recently complained to an Israeli interviewer that in the 1967 Middle East war, "we fought on the same territory and

we gained a bistnric victory."
"It is distressing to compare
how then we were able to subdue massive regular armies in a few days while today we have problems in attaining goals," he said.
The longing for the days of

simple soldiering and straightforretirement as head of the army's ward objectives permeates the logistics branch, told Israeli news-

"In the Six-Day War and even in the war in Lehanon, people tald stories of heroism about our soldiers." said a Jewisb philosopper David Hatman. "With the intifada we have not one story of heroism. There's no sense of triumpbalism nr victory or power. Just the opposite. There's a horri-

ble, helpless feeling." Israeli generals are also caught in a manpower problem. At first, the army largely used regular. frontline units in the hope of achieving an early end to the violence. But as the struggle dragged on, it was forced to send those ynunger troops back to training camps and bring in middle-age reservists, doubling annual reserve duty from 30 to 60

But it is the nider reservists who are the most vocal and resentful and who have raised the most doubts about the army's role. Rabin has promised to cut reserve duty hack to 45 days. Analysts say that pledge means again resorting to frontline troops or else cutting back drastically on the number of soldiers assigned to the occupied terri-

The army's deputy chief of staff, Major Geoeral Ehud Barak, hinted at ooe alternative: the creation of mobile "flying squads" to try to cover more ground with fewer troops. Analysts contend a reduction of the number of soldiers would almost certainly lead to increased. incident to incident.

The other solution is a plan that no one discusses publicly but reportedly could be ready for implementation oo short ootice, it the cabinet approved it: the withdrawal of the army from main West Bank and Gaza population centres to a perimeter of surrounding roads and hilltops.

Government officials contend such a withdrawal could take place only as part of a negotiated agreement providing for local Palestinian autocomy. But others say the senior commanders would like to put the plan into effect

unilaterally and immediately.
In the meantime, the army's

pain continues. "After the Lebanon war, we suffered from a syndrome where people were unwilling to take the initiative," said Roman, the reserve officer. "It took a long time, but the army finally managed to stamp it out. Now the danger is we are heading right back to that syndrome". — The



By William Scally

WASHINGTON - The nomination of John Tower to be U.S. secretary of defence, controversial from the start, is becoming emharrassing for all sides with charges involving Tower's per-

After an intensive inquiry into Tower's close ties with the defence industry, the issue of alleged excessive drinking and womanising has suddenly emerged as a hurdle to his confirmation as Pentagon chief.

There have been no suggestions so far that two new charges said to be related to Tower's personal life will derail his nomination.

White House spokesman Mar-lin Fitzwater said again Friday that President Bush was confident Tower would be confirmed by the Senate.

But the public airing of somewhat lurid charges against the nominee contrasts sharply with the image Bush has been projecting in the White House. Bush, a church-goer and devoted family man, has emphasised high ethical standards since he took

office on January 20.

The charges against Tower also have the potential to embarrass has Senate American Comthe Senate Armed Services Committee if a new scandal were to erupt after Tower takes over at the defence department.

Tower, a former member of the Senate and chairman of the Armed Services Committee, is a familiar figure in the halls of Congress, where the personal foibles of members are generally known hut not talked about. The Senate looks after its own.

Clearly anxious to avoid any later accusations that Tower was shooed in under the Senate's "old boy network", the committee uoder chairman Sam Nunn has conducted ao exhaustive examination.

Most of the questioning has dealt with Tower's close links to the defence industry after he left government. In less than three years his consulting firm earned more than \$750,000 from major defeoce contractors.

Nunn and other senators remained uneasy about the perception of conflict of interest as the formal hearings ended.

Still, Tower's confirmation has seemed assured until Thursday,

wheo the questions about consultant's fees, contracts and arms yielded to colourful reports about his personal life.

CBS said the charges followed others of alleged indiscretions with women, including a woman from the Eastern bloc. It quoted a White House official as saving all allegations had been investigated and repudiated.

But CBS said it had spoken Thursday with a woman who worked with Tower wheo he headed a U.S. delegation in

The woman, her identity dis-guised, said: "I persooally saw him chase his secretary around the desk, chasing after ber, pulling at her skirt. I think he had no control and I think be was there for a good time."

The Washington Post quoted unidentified sources as saying the allegations concerned relatively recent incidents that had previously not been reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

It said the incidents reportedly occurred in this country and not in Geneva, where Tower served · as strategic arms oegotiator for the Reagan administration.

There was no indication of the source of the new charges. Tnwer, 63, has not addressed

the womanising issue except iodirectly in a promise to Nunn not to tolerate sexual harassment and discrimination against women at the Pentagon. In testimony to the Armed Services

Committee, spread over four days, Tower, a portly, diminutive figure, soberly dressed and with dark, slicked-down hair, answered questions with articulate assurance. In seats behind him as he faced

the committee were his two daughters, his first wife - he is twice divorced - and a woman

His 20 years of service as a senator with an ahiding interest in military affairs and his stint as arms negotiator gave authority to his replies on military matters. Living down a reputation of being arrogant and uncomprom-

ising, he pledged cooperation and consultation with Congress. There were no allusions to Tower's personal life during the

first two days of public hearings. But Tuesday a Tower foe, conservative activist Paul Weyrich, told the committee that over many years he had encountered the nominee in a condition of "a lack of sobriety, as well as with women to wbom he was not

He added: "I encountered him frequently enough (to the point) that it made an impression."

The committee later questioned hoth Weyrich and Tower separately bebind closed doors and got a public statement from Tower that he does not have an alcohol problem and would not tolerate sexual harassment at the Pentagon.

The apparently orchestrated response appeared to have set the matter at rest - until Nunn and senior committee Republican John Warner announced Thursday that a tentatively planned vote on Tower's nomination had been delayed for further investigation into the new charges.

It was the second time Tower had been left dangling while his ments and faults were publicly discussed. Bush, before he took office, made clear he wanted Tower hut held off naming him for weeks.



John Tower

The delay prompted expressons of concern that Tower's effectiveness at the Pentagon could be harmed. The new controversy could add to that conCe

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Swee Ang and one of the victims

Dr. Swee Chai Ang, veteran of Beirut refugee camps, describes Palestinian courage under Israeli oppresr, sion.

. AS THE passengers came out of passport control at Ben Gurion airport, they were met by teenage Israeli girls who gave them silk flowers. Mine was a pink rose, bearing a lahel: "Thank You for visiting us. Hope to see you again soon. From the Ministry of Tourism." If only the pretty Israeli girls knew wby I came — would I

be greeted with such warmth? It all began six years ago — in the summer of 1982, when I volunteered my services to the war victims in Lebanon. Until that trip I never knew there were people called Palestinians. In the refugee camps of Lebanon, in Sabra and Shatila, I discovered the truth. Israel, a country which I had loved and respected all my life, had suddenly turned into a ruthless monster. The first child I treated was a victim of the awful cluster bomb. He died, and I thanked God for that. If he lived, he would have no eyes, no face,

Then came more children -children with burns, fractures, with festering wounds, which left hideous scars. And finally the Sabra and Spatila massacres which transformed the camps into a demolition site punctuated by

mass graves. The stench of decaying buman flesh never quite left me, and I developed an obsession for perfumes, boping that they would blot out that steneb from my olfactory lobes. That was my heginning with the Palestinians. That was where it would have ended - if I had not seen another side...

Yes, amid the borrors of destruction, death and decay, life goes on. Four generations of Palestinians have lived in this manner and brought yet more children into the world. They were never sure whether their generation is the generation to see deliverance from this inhuman state, but they always lived in bope, in expectation, that their children, or their children's children would make it. Even when the most brutal fate befall them. they would still believe in God. and that one day His peace and justice would be granted to them. And then they would be like everyone else, happy and free.
Meanwhile, they would continue to rebuild their bombed-out bomes. Palestinian women would gather their children and feed them with affection if there was a shortage of bread and milk. The Palestine Red Crescent Society, the bealth institution of the Palestinian people, would go on building and rebuilding their bospitals and clinics - to mend the wounds of war, and to defy the onslanght of further invasions. I can clearly remember the

words of a Palestinian woman. It is so easy to die. But we have tion. In these very crowded

To dream in Gaza ceiving bospital treatment. There

nights on the end during curfews. It was the laws of the Occupation that prevented the Palestinians from improving their environment, that made it illegal for anyone to upgrade their bomes. The alleys between the buildings are very narrow, allowing one large person, or two slim ones, to pass simultaneously. Yet the main streets of the camps are widened deliberately so that army patrol cars can drive with ease up and down each camp. And over the past year, military quarters have been built for the soldiers in the middle of the larger camps, so that they can get at anyone in the camp at once.

Since my arrival, the Army bave been breaking into the bomes and beating up the occu-pants, often for no reason at all. Just two days ago, eight people were basbed up in their bomes and admitted to our hospital. They included children aged six, nine, I0 and I2. Mattresses were ripped apart, furniture was wrecked. Tear-gas canisters were shot into the crowded little

Life in Gaza is life under Occupation. I learned that very quickly. One of the first things saw was a large gathering of Palestinian women - bundreds, I would say, It was Friday, a day wben they were allowed a brief visit to detained relatives. That was Ansar II prison, next to the

There was yet another prison in crowded Gaza, the Gaza Central Jail, where prisoners were put 25 to each cell, often having to sleep on top of each other. To he found with a Palestine flag, to he sus-pected of opposing the Occupa-tion, would earn a long prison term, never mind actually throw-

ing stones at the Israeli army. But those detained in these prisons were still luckier than those detained in Ansar III. The latter is in the middle of the desert. Everyone in Gaza knows that the conditions in Ansar III are absolutely inhuman, and no visitors are allowed. Yet nearly every family in Gaza bas at least one of its members in prison at any given time.

In the emergency room and the operating theatre of the hospital, I could not escape the Occupation either. Both my patients and my Palestinian colleagues were the Palestinians of Gaza, with victims in one way or a their kindness and bospitality; that same Occupation. victims in one way or another of

The older Palestinians told me

how their families were murdered

in 1948, and their homes blown

up. They would show me pictures

of their former bomes. But if I

went to where these houses were

supposed to be, I would only find

the supermarkets, car parks, and

roads that have been built over

them. Having lost their family

homes, they had to build them

again and again, each time in a different area, only to bave the new homes again demolished by the army. Most of my patients

were either beaten up by the army, or shot by them. The abbreviation "BBA" — Beaten

by Army - appeared in medical records with predictable regular-

ONE DAY I was operating on a beautiful young Palestinian girl who was shot. I started to think aloud: "This would leave such an ugly scar. I hope her future husband will love her despite this."

The Palestinian male nurse who was helping me with the operation looked at me in complete surprise: "Why do you say that? He will be very proud of her, because she was wounded for Palestine."

with their faith in the goodness of God, their lack of bitterness, their patience and courage in the face of untold misery and

to live and he strong to carry on.

for the sake of the future genera-

So Shatila camp was rebuilt, how many times since 1982, I lost

count. Attacks and sieges came and went, so did six barsb

Lebanese winters. The wounds of

Sbatila never quite healed. Yet

when the Palestinians in Shatila

learned that the Palestinians in

Gaza were wounded in the upris-

ing and needed an orthopaedic

surgeon, they urged me to leave

Gaza

I arrived at the Gaza ebeck-

point in late afternoon. Once

across the checkpoint, London

and Israel seemed worlds away.

My first impression of Gaza City

was that it was so much like parts

of South Lebanon, and the south-

ern suburbs of Beirut. There

were barbed wires, armoured

patrol cars, and soldiers with

machine guns. I felt at home

almost at once — at home with

the wretchedness, at home with

the poverty, the curiews and the strikes, at home with the wound-

ed people, shot and beaten up by the Israeli Army. But above all, I

was immediately at home with

for Gaza.

persecution. Gaza measures 40 kilometres by eight, a very narrow strip of land next to the Mediterranean sea. In this area, 650,000 Palestinians found their so-called homes. The bulk of the population lived in camps — the Beach, Brouj, Deir el-Balah, Nuseirat, Magbazi, Jabalia and Rafab being some of them. The population of each camp varies from 10,000 to 50,000 or more. Here. as in Lebanon, the camps were not tents, but rows of small concrete buildings. Each building of a mere two rooms would he home for a family of eight to 10 per-

In summer, the beat, the smell of human waste, insects, skin diseases plagued the camp inhabitants. In winter, the rain, the bitter cold in bomes without heating or hot water added to the misery. Sewage disposal was by septic tanks into open cesspools, some of it carried there by open drains. The road surfaces were extremely uneven, both inside and outside the camps, and when it rained, balf of Gaza's roads

would be flooded. As though the squalor was not enough, there was the Occupabomes, each family would be ity. Then the patients with gun-huddled together for days and shot wounds, carried into the emergency room by terrified relatives. Little children of five, six, seven, eight, and nine years, and teenagers of 12,13 and upwards.

Severe beatings produced nasty soft-tissue injuries, bleeding into the joints and brain, rupture of major ligaments, and bone fractures anywhere — the band, the forearm, the skull, the ribs, the legs, and so on. I soon accumulated a large pile of X-rays of sucb injuries. Occasionally, as though to provide some variety, the army would shoot round kids instead of directly at them. This would produce panie, and the kids would flee. They would then climb up walls to get away from the sol-diers, who would then resume shooting, forcing them to jump off the walls. These would come in with fractures labelled "Fallen off wall while trying to escape

from the army." Then there were Palestinians with nasty high-voltage burns sustained as a result of being forced to take down Palestine flags hanging on electrical cables, and those with flash burns sustained when ordered by the army to remove burning tyres from the

Rubber bullets

Gunshot wounds were of diffe-

Dum-dum bullets

Of course, when the army meant business - they would use nine-millimetre steel-capped bullet, or some kind of dnm-dum bullet, and my old friends from Lebanon, the lethal high velocity M16 bullets. On a good day, our hospital would have less than IO "BBA" and gunshot cases, but on a bad day, the wards would fill up very quickly, and the matron would have to put up extra mat-

tresses for the wounded. The worst day bappened be-fore my arrival. The army attacked a school, and the bospital had over 60 severe casualties.

Dealing with wounds and fractures is just one aspect - perhaps the technical and straightforward aspect. Dealing with wounded patients who are threatened with arrest is the real difficulty. This is especially so since I have examined and treated various people released from prison. They were brutally beaten in prison, and their description of the treatment they were subjected to was beyond the endurance of the fit and healthy, not to mention the wounded.

One evening I operated on a young man shot by a 9mm bullet. This went through his shoulder blowing it apart to multiple bits.

 Dr. Ang was seconded to the United Nations Relief & Works Agency by the British charity, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) of 29 Enford Street, London WI (01723) 7766). A book by Dr. Ang, From Beirut to Jerusalem is to be published by Grafton Books on February 9.

rent types, and varied from time If the shot bad been fired closer to time. The most commonly to the midline it would have used bullets were the plastic bullets. They were the best of the whole lot, unless shot at close range, or into the abdomen where they would kill by perforating vital viscera, or the eye, or blood vessels — they cause unpleasant, but non-fatal wounds.

Then there are different kinds of rubber bullets - at least three to my knowledge. First, the conventional rubber bullets used for riot control in most parts of the world - but seldom used by the Israeli army nowadays. They tend to prefer some kind of modification where a heavier piece of metal is coated in rubber, therefore inflicting greater pain and tissue damage.

The third kind of rubber bullet

is actually eupbemism for a metal ball approximately one centimetre in diameter and coated with a thin layer of rubber, perhaps one millimetre or less.

This variety is vicious and produces perforations in the skulls and severe brain damage, comminuted fractures of limb bones, and extensive soft-tissue injuries. My first encounter with this kind rubber bullet was on January 1989. A kid was brought in o the emergency room with the story of baving been hit by a rubber bullet. The X-rays revealed a large round metal object embedded in the area below the eye. The patient lost his eye as a

result of this injury. Following that was a young girl, with a penetrating injury of the cranium. Brain was oozing out and X-rays confirmed a metallic sphere embedded in the brain and the fracture in the skull created at the point where the bullet penetrated it. Her mother was hit by the same kind of bullet and bad an open fracture of the

to the midline it would have blown his neck apart. Scarcely had I completed his operation when the army came into the recovery room of the operating theatre wanting to question him. My anaesthetist colleague, a Norwegian doctor, turned them

A few hours later the army returned and wanted to go upstairs to question the man. I stopped them. They came back a third time, and 10 fully-armed members of the army went into the ward in the small hours of the morning and interrogated the pa-tient. I felt belpless when this happened — obviously no one could hold up 10 men armed with-MI6 machine-guns.

They returned a fourth time with the view of abducting him. Fortunately the patient's relatives had taken him away hefore the army arrived. From the surgical aspect, his shoulder would probably be a disaster due to the severity of the injury as well as his inability to complete his treatment. I could only pray for his safety, and bope that his shoulder would heal.

I could only take comfort in the wisdom of Pare, the father of modern surgery: "I dress the wounds, only God can heal them." But the terror in my patient's face I would always remember — a wounded person who bad just escaped being shot dead, facing arrest.

To this day, I have never found out what crime my patient had committed, and why he was denied the right to be treated properly. Certainly the mighty army could wait a day or two for his condition to stabilise before getting at him in this way. Yet be was just one of many wbo were threatened with arrest while re-

Cinema

denying my patient the right to be treated; it was also denying me the right to treat my patient.

The irony was that the impoverished people of Gaza were paying taxes to "the government" so that the Occupation could continue. They belped pay the salaries of the soldiers who shot and beat them, and the prisons that

are two parties who are victi-

mised in this process. The ob-

vious victim is the patient, but the

not-so-obvious vietim is the

medical team. I felt as though the

army was forcing me to violate medical ethics. It was not only

robbed them of their freedom, and the military apparatus that continued to stiffle and crush It was small wonder that the Palestinians demanded an end to the Occupation, and the "in-

tifada" or "uprising" carried on without any hint of abeyance after one year, after nearly 400 Palestinians were killed, and thousands injured.

Palestinians everywhere told me: "It is impossible to stop the intifada. We will just bave to carry on till we get our rights back." Palestinians invited me into their homes, where they would show me items made in the colours of the Palestine flag. Knitted woollen jumpers, embroidery, any common item would become a channel for expression of their longing for freedom.

Ugly scars

One day I was operating on a beautiful young Palestinian girl wbo was shot. I started to think alond: "This would leave such an ugly scar. I hope her future hus-band will love her despite this."

The Palestinian male nurse who was helping me with the operation looked at me in complete surprise: "Why do you say that? He will be very proud of her, because she was wounded for Palestine.

A 13-year-old boy came out of prison with his wrist broken by the army. We straightened his broken bones and put him in a plaster of Paris cast, but when he was ready to leave the bospital, I learned that the army had gone to his home and threatened his father. They would get the old man if his son did not show up. My patient bravely went home to face re-arrest. When I look at the courage of the Palestinians, I know that the Occupation will have to end soon.

Christmas and New Year passed without my noticing - except perhaps for an bright little event on Christmas morning. Matron delivered a breech on the couch in the emergency room. The mother had arrived in labour, and delivered almost on the spot. It was a healthy baby boy despite all the possible risks associated with breech delivery. For a moment, everyone in the emergency room was bappy, doctors, nurses and patients. This was short-lived, for the casualties of the intifada soon started to pour in again. It was yet one more day of beatings and shootings. Another night of curfew, where Palestinian children slept in those cold and damp camp houses, wondering if the next day would see them bashed up and arrested. Another night where Palestinian women cried when they remembered those who were dead, imprisoned or wounded. But strangely I dreamed of

something wonderful, of people celebrating in the streets of Gaza. There were flowers and flags

Tel: 675571



everywhere, and laughter and building proper homes for the tears of joy. The soldiers were

Getting rid of the Occupation is not merely a matter of pride end to refugee identity card, carand dignity. In real life, it means running one's own country, building a sewage system, increasing hospital beds ten-fold, repairing the roads. It means opening the gates of the prisons so that those who have resisted the Occupation can be re-united with their loved ones, demolishing the camps and

people. It means lahelling Palestinian goods with the label "Made and Produced in Palestine," an rying a Palestine passport. It means no curfews, no arbitrary arrests, no beatings. It also means the right of return for those Palestinians exiled in other Arab countries. It means a home for the people of Sabra and Shatilla. It means flying the Palestine flag

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Perez proposes massive Third World debt reduction scheme

CARACAS (R) — Venezuela's new president Carlos Andres Perez Saturday proposed a plan under which the industrial world would write off at least half of Latin America's huge debt.

Perez, inaugurated Thursday at a ceremony attended by foreign leaders, also proposed at a news conference that African loans be written off and added that President Bush should play a key role in a plan to reduce Third World

He said leading Latin American dehtnrs, known as the Group of Eight, should meet Bush and afterward join other Third World dehtors to agree in a conference on a common positinn to ease the crushing burden of the developing world's \$1.3 trillion deht.

"I am convinced that if in this year of 1989 we do not find a solution to the debt problem then democracy in Latin America will be gravely threatened by destahilisation," he said. "The conditinns in Africa are more

Speaking to more than 100 foreign jnurnalists, he also prop-

osed a Western hemisphere summit to draw up and sign a treaty to tackle hurgeoning drug trafficking, which he said had become the most threatening international crime.

Perez said the Organisarinn nf Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), to which Venezuela helongs, should not make the mistake of trying to abruptly raise the price of crude oil again because that could lead to more competition from independent producers.

He said consuming and producstable pricing arrangement.
Perez, a 66-year-old centre-left

politician with a populist flair, was president of Venezuela from 1974-1979, when he critical 1974-1979, when he gained a high international profile for his activism in OPEC and on Central American issues.

An international agency would
He expressed confidence that take responsibility for the deht American issues.

West German Chancellor Helmut and charge only about half the Kohl, French President Francois Mitterrand and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez would work at the next European Community (EC) summit for a just rescheduling of Latin American

He said creditors should forgive African debt, or at least reduce payments to a symbolic

He suggested they reduce the value of Latin American debt to between 40 and 50 per cent of its value, pointing out it had already been discounted by an average of 70 per cent on secondary mar-

He said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or World Bank should play a central role in negotiating the reduction in Latin ing nations should agree on a America's debt repayments with private foreign hanks.

(SDRs), a basket of five currencies — the dollar, yen, mark, sterling and French franc. interest now being collected, a level he said dehtor countries could cope with. He said his impression. from

talks last month with IMF Director-General Michel Camdessus, was that the fund has begun to recognise the need for economic growth in Latin America and this could not be divorced from the debt payments question.

To push forward the plan, he said the Group of Eight Latin American nations, which hold \$335 billion of the region's debt, sought to first meet with Bush and then at a high level with nments of other industrialised nations.

"We of course will not be dngmatic — we dnn't aim to impose our solution," he said. 'We are very open to discuss other possible solutions."

The Group of Eight includes Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Vene-zuela, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay. The eighth member, Panama, was suspended when General Manuel Antonio Noriega rejected an order to resign by a civilian president.

Greek black economy helps boost booming public deficit

ATHENS (R) - Most Greeks product (GDP). It is an integral cite the national economy as their major worry but bankers and economists say many people benefit from the very problems they

A thriving black economy, rampant tax avoidance and an unofficial system of patronage in the public service sector are all pushing the public sector deficit higher, said a senior banker.

An economist said: "They may list the economy as their major worry but I don't believe they mean it. Most people have never had it so good." He noted that both savings and consumption increased during a two-year austerity programme when wages

National Economy Minister Panayiotis Roumeliotis admits the public sector deficit is a major problem and links it to tax avoidance and the underground eco-

The hlack economy is estimated conservatively at around tage of GDP, currently 15 per 30 per cent of gross domestic cent, hy almost half in four or five

part of life - everybody seems involved from landlords and plumbers to beauticians and rranslators.

During the austerity programme launched in late 1985 to cut the public sector and current account deficits, foreign debt and inflation, the black economy acted as a useful safety valve.

While wages and salaries were frozen, it allowed public sector and other workers to "moonlight" to boost their incomes. Tax payers have also become

more proficient at avoiding taxes. Revenue from value added tax fell 12 per cent in the second year after its introduction in 1987, Roumelintis said.

"So the government really has to fight against this fiscal fraud... and from the other side we have to control the expenditure of the central government," he added.

The Socialist government has a plan to cut the deficit as a percen-

But the banking source said the the scandals will be dull by then." government has shown no deter- one banker said. mination in controlling the public sector deficit and in an election sector agreed.

Budget targets are consistently overshot. The 1989 hudget is forecast at 1.39 trillion drachmas (\$9.26 hillion) compared with 1.16 trillion drachmas (\$7.73 billion) last year, which ended well over its original target.

"The budget is not credible," the hanker said.

memories of a \$200 million bankdustry will have faded.

Both bankers and Roumeliotis Rnumeliotis said. demed the scandals had affected "Our target (in 1988) was to the climate of confidence in the accelerate the development pro-

"Whatever government wins,

there is going to have to be year harnessing spending was un- another austerity programme,' likely. Economists in the private he added echoing sentiments of some other private sector eco-

"One thing they need to do is to stop the inflow of people into the public sector," the banker said. He suggested an inflationlinked wage system should be scrapped.

Inflation remains the highest among European Community Elections are scheduled for June members at about 14 per cent, 18, by which time analysts say the against 15.7 per cent last year.

The Organisation for Econoing scandal at the privately-own- mic Cooperation and Developed Bank of Crete and a scandal at ment is predicting 13.5 per cent the state-owned greek arms in-inflation for 1989 and we are expecting less than that,

cess in Greece without destabilis-"What will count on voting day ing the economy, be said. The will be the amount of mnney in task was not easy, he added.

Kremlin blasts businesses for hiking prices of consumer goods

government, in another attempt to ease chronic shortages of consumer goods, has announced a crackdown on state-owned husinesses that have raised prices and reduced production of inex-

pensive products. The council of ministers, or Soviet cabinet, sald it would require husinesses to produce a minimum amount of inexpensive consumer goods and would han price hikes for items that change little, the TASS news agency re-

Jordanian, 35 years old.

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Price increases for "new and ramme. fashionable goods" may not exceed 15 per cent, the council

The decisinn had been approved in early January, council nf ministers spokesman Lev Voznesensky said in a telephone interview. It did not affect the burgeoning cooperative move-ment that has arisen under President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Gorbachev has said tackling shortages of consumer goods and good is a top priority of his economic restructuring prog-

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However, because of Gorbachev's drive to make each factory pay its own way, Soviet managers are in effect encouraged to seek the highest markup they can on their products, and

So-called "deficits" in the consumer sector have plagued the country for years; but Soviets complain that under Gorbachev, new shortages have appeared, specifically of inexpensive consumer goods.

even to curtail manufacture of

cheap goods that bring little re-

One of the most talked about examples is soap. Soviets have flooded the official press with angry letters and grumhled privately that inexpensive soap has disappeared from store shelves while expensive bars are plentiful.

"I am writing this letter out of happiness that my husband not be allowed to buy "non-(according to a waiting list) re-scarce foods and non-edible comceived one bar of household soap modities," presumably from the and a tube of 'Zefir' toothpaste," state, but that any products made one woman wrote sarcastically from them should be sold at Dec. 28 in the labour daily Trud. prices fixed for state-run retail "I will take care of it to make sure shops.

it lasts long, because it's unknown when such good fortune will visit me again.

Many Soviets complain they cannut afford the costly alternatives on their meagre salaries, which average about 200 roubles (\$333) monthly. They even charge that factory managers are withholding consumer goods from the stores to try to sabotage Gnrbachev's economic reforms.

Nikolai Belov, deputy director of the State Committee on Statistics, in October called the substitution of cheap goods with expensive alternatives "hidden price hikes" and said that along with increases in wages, inflation had developed. He did not give a figure for inflation.

Another decision of the council of ministers pertained to cooperatives, a movement that has burgeoned under Gorhachev.

TASS said cooperatives will

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S. Korea plans to import more to trim surpluses

SEOUL (AP) — South Knrea will increase imports rather than curtail exports to reduce trade surpluses and avoid friction with the United States, Western Europe and other major trading partners, a top official has said.

The country reported a trade deficit of \$33 million for January, the first deficit since August 1987. But trade and industry ministry officials described that deficit as temporary and predicted an upturn this month. They said the nation recorded a surplus in January in its current account, which measures other transactions as well as trade.

In a briefing for foreign media reporters, Trade and Industry Minister Han Seung-Soo said the government intended to lower Korea's trade surplus with the United States to \$6.5 billing this year from last year's \$8.5 billion. South Korea intended to lower

its surplus with the European Community (EC) to \$1.5 hillion from last year's \$2 hillion. Han said balancing exports and imports would be the top priority

of his ministry. He said Korea planned to send huying missions to the United States and member countries of the EC to expand imports. His

ministry said earlier that at least four import missions would visit the United States between March and May with shopping lists totalling \$4 billion. Han also said the government was preparing a three-year plan

to remove remaining restrictions on imports, including farm pro-ducts. He said a five-year plan has been launched to reduce tariff rates from the present 12 per cent to 7.2 per cent, matching those nf developed countries, by 1993. Korea also planned to lower its 1989 overall trade surplus to \$5 billion from last year's \$8.9 hillion, the ministry said.

Han said the won's rise against the U.S. dollar should be slower than last year, when he said it climbed 15.8 per cent against the American currency.

The won's rapid appreciation, along with substantial wage hikes

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and frequent labour-management disputes, has weakened the competitiveness of Korean industries, particularly labour-intensive and small and medium-size industries like textiles and footwear, he

Besides restructuring nf such adversely affected industries, the minister said the government was encouraging Korean firms to invest abroad and modernise production.

Han said the multilateral trading system now was threatened by bilateralism and regionalism and must he preserved. He said Korea would continue to take part in the GATT-sponsored Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

He added that Korea supports regional economic cooperation on a non-exclusive hasis, but opposes the formation of an economic bloc.

Han said he was confident that 'our trade and industry objectives can be achieved without losing the vitality that has been the trademark of our economy:" The economy grew at an annual rate of 12 per cent in the past three years.

A preliminary government tally showed South Korea's exports in January amounted to \$4.37 billion, up 11.4 per cent from a year earlier. Imports were listed at \$4.41 billion, up 21 per cent. Except in Angust 1987, South

Korea had been reporting month-ly trade surpluses since March

S. Korean business tycoon confirms deals with N. Korea

Meanwhile, South Korean business tycoon Chung Ju-Yung, returning from a 10-day visit to North Korea, confirmed that he and the North had agreed in principle to undertake several joint projects.

The unprecedented joint venture agreement between the sometimes bitter rival countries had been reported by earlier North Korean official media.

Chung, honorary chairman of the Hyundai Grnup, South Korea's largest husiness conglomerate, was the country's first known business leader to visit the North with the approval of both governments since Korea was divided in 1945.

Under the agreement signed in Pyongyang, Chung said Hyundai and the North Korean government will jointly develop a North Korean resort centered around scemic Mount Kumgang on the North Korean east coast to attract South Koreans and fore-Chung said the two sides also

agreed to jointly develop re-sources in Soviet Siberia and to jointly operate a railroad rolling, stock plant and a shipyard, both at Wonsan in the North.

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Romania announces large trade surplus

VIENNA (R) — Romania has announced a 1988 trade surplus of some \$4 billion saying this would permit large loan repayments under President Nicolae Ceasusescu's plan to wipe out Western debt.

"Foreign trade activities in 1988 ended with a raughly four thousand millinn dollar surplus of the trade balance in convertible currency, ensuring the payment of a substantial share of the foreign deht," a Romanian communi-

The communique, issued through the official news agency Agerpres, gave no details of how much debt had been repaid.

To cut debt. Ceausescu has throttled imports and launched an all-out export drive under food has been sold for bard cur- nations in 1986.

paying Western debts at breakneck speed had inflicted chronic shortages of food, heating and lighting on Romanians. Last December, a foreign trade

But Western diplomats said re-

ministry official said Romania had cut its gross Western dehts frnm a peak of \$10.5 billinn in 1981 to a net zero — when the amount other countries owed Bucharest was subtracted from the gross figure.

Romania is secretive about actual figures but Western diplomats estimate it is owed between \$2.5 and \$3 billion, chiefly by Third World states.

Agerpres gave no comparative figures but a \$4 hillion surplus would be twice the \$1.9 hillion which most of Romania's best surplus recorded with Western

Libya lends Uganda \$130m

KAMPALA (AP) — Libya has loaned Uganda \$130 millinn at four per cent interest rate to he in the control of the ground."

mic rehabilitation programme to take off the ground."

On Jan. 27, representatives repaid in 12 years with a four- from Britain, United States, year grace period, Radio Uganda Japan, West Germany and Italy,

has announced. "The loan would be repaid by cials in Paris, France, agreed to exporting Ugandan goods and reschedule this East African naexports to Libya," the state-own-tion's debts incurred before 1982 ed raido said.

The radio hrnadcast added Libya also had agreed to reschedule repayment of a \$11 millinn lnan to Uganda in 1974 when deposed dictator Idi Amin, then a

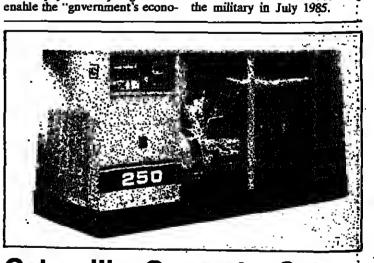
close friend of Lihyan leader Muammar Qadhafi was in power. Uganda's President Yoweri

Museveni recently appealed to Socialist countries to reschedule deht repayments by Uganda to

and due for repayment this and next year. The money Uganda owed the five industrialised nations was not disclosed.

in a meeting with Ugandan offi-

Museveni inherited an economy hankrupted hy Amin's mismanagement between 1971 and 1979 and stagnated hy a civil war during deposed civilian president Milton Obote's five-year rule, which ended with his ouster by the military in July 1985.



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any application. With new models in the lower and higher kilowatt range, you can exactly match your gen set requirements from 45 tto 4910 kW and 45 to 6560 This broad power range, cou-pled with a wide variety of power

accessories such as the EMCP, allows you to select the optimum product for your needs. See your Caterpillar Dealer for complete

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, Feb. 5, 1989 Central Bank official rates

U.S. dollar Pound Sterling Deutschemark Swiss franc French franc

electrical power generation ap-plications worldwide. Today's full

565.0 985.1 300.9

 Japanese yen (for 100)
 433.0
 437.3

 Dutch guidex
 264.1
 266.7

 Swedish crown
 87.9
 88.8

 Italian lira (for 100)
 40.8
 41.2

 Belgian franc (for 10)
 142.3
 143.7

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Starling stops Honeyghan

LAS VEGAS (R) — Marion Starling punished favourite Lloyd Honeyghan mercilessly Saturday, stopping the Briton in the ninth round to win the World Boxing Conucil (WBC) welterweight

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nians.

Starling weathered Honeyghan's early flurry of punches then took control of the fight from the fifth round.

of people into the banks an inflation In another welterweight title fight on the same bill, Mark Breland stopped South Korean Lee Seung-Soon in just 54 seconds of the first round to take the vacant World Boxing Association crown.

Ironically, only Honeyghan has finished a world welterweight title fight sooner when he stopped American Gene Hatcher in 39 seconds two years ago.

Honeyghan started the scheduled 12-round war as if be were trying to show how many punches lopment pro out destable he said. The be could throw. For the first three rounds the 28-year-old Briton threw shots at all parts of the

American's body but Starling blocked most of them and seemed to be biding his time. The fight began to swing towards Starling, 30, in the fifth.

The American pounded Honeyghan against the ropes and although the Briton managed to duck away, Starling caught him again and knocked his mouthpiece out.

That was really the beginning of the end for Honeyghan's 10-month second reign as WBC welterweight champion.

Honeyghan said he thought Starling bad hit a nerve in the fourth or fifth round. The nerve in my face was killing me," Honeyghan said. "I got on my toes and started danc-

ing because I didn't want to get hit on the face." "I tried everything," Honeyghan said. "I tried to stick and move. I tried to fight him. I just

couldn't get going tonight and be

Bucks 113, Bullets 102

NBA Roundup

Ricky Pierce scored nine of his

21 points in the fourth quarter,

leading the Milwaukee Bucks to a

Walter Davis' jumper with one

second remaining gave the De-nver Nuggets a 127-126 victory

Hawks 118, Suns 116, OT

Moses Malone scored a season-

high 37 points and sank a decisive

jumper with 1:05 remaining as

the Atlanta Hawks scored the

final eight points in overtime and

beat the Phoenix Suns 118-116.

Trail Blazers 137, Spurs 100

Adrian Branch scored a career-

high 28 points and Kiki Van-

deweghe added 26 as Portland

built a 29-point halftime lead and

coasted to a 137-100 victory over

Warriors 116, Clippers 107

Chris Mullin scored 24 points

as the Golden State Warriors

handed Los Angeles a 116-107

defeat, the Clippers' 18th con-

the San Antonio Spurs.

113-102 victory over the

Washington Bullets.

over the Utah Jazz.

Nuggets 127, Jazz 126

NEW YORK (AP) - Patrick Ewing scored 17 points and blocked five shots as the New York Knieks defeated Indiana 113-106 Saturday night, the Pacers' fifth consecutive loss.

The Knicks led most of the game, but had to survive a 10-0 spurt in the final quarter. A drive by Vern Fleming ended the run and gave Indiana its only lead since the first quarter, 94-93, with 6:23 to play.

Ewing then rejected a sbot by Wayman Tisdale and Gerald Wilkins ended a streak of eight consecutive New York misses with a layup to put the Knicks ahead

Chuck Person had 23 points for Indiana and Rik Smits scored 10 of his 20 in the final quarter for the Pacers.

In other National Basketball Association games Saturday, Milwaukee defeated Washington, 113-102; Denver edged Utah 127-126; Atlanta heat Phoenix 118-116; Portland ronted San Antonio 137-100; and Golden State defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 116-107.

will last a full four rounds.

"I gave Frank one of the best

chances hecause of the con-

troversy in Tyson's life," Pritch-

ard says. "But without the con-

troversy. Tyson is basically un-

Kuwait edges out Jordan in Davis Cup first round

By Rania Atalia Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Kuwait Sunday qualified for the Cup group II championship after securing a 3-2 victory against Jordan in the men's tennis preliminaries.

Knwait's victory in one of Sunday's matches, which pitted Jordan's Abdullah Al Khalil against Kuwait's Khaled Rashed, clinched the second round berth for the Kuwains. In Sunday's second match, Jordan's Hani Al Ali beat Kuwait's Ayman Al Ashouk 6-1,

The highlight of Sunday's matches, which started about one hour late, was the Ali-Ashouk match.

Ali, who was on the offensive throughout the match, lost the first game to Ashouk's poised serves. But that was all that Ali would allow his opponent in that set, for although Ashouk hit several clever smashes, his double faults and Ali's precise return hits got the Kuwaiti nowhere closer to victory.

With a number of heautifullyexecuted smashes, Jordan's national ace managed to break Ashouk's serves three time, winning the first set 6-1.

Despite the double fault he made at the beginning of the second set, and a few sloppy errors bere and there, Ali managed to keep tight control of his day qualified for the service allowing but three games second round of the Davis to be snatched from him by his

> Though distracted by noisy members of the audience who moved while play was in progress. Ashouk managed to put up a tough fight in the second set. He cleverly executed well-calculated shots and managed to win three games in that set.

But Ali beautifully placed a long shot in the corner, catching Ashouk out of halance, and marking the point in the game when Ali's victory seemed very close indeed.

Both players demonstrated quick reflexes and bussled wholeheartedly after the balls. Ashouk's quick movements earned his a few remarkable points but with an apparent pain in the waist, he lost the first game which he served, after which Ali was on a roll. The latter had gathered so much momentum that he won the third and final set

Sunday's second game was a much faster one, with both players displaying impressive moves and shots. But hy the end of the second set, it was clear that Kuwait's 17-year-old Rashed would win the game securing his country's 3-2 lead for the second

Jordan's Hani Al Ali and Kuwait's Ayman Al Ashouk shake

hands at the end of Sunday's singles match

The 37-year-old lawyer brilliantly used serves to his advantage hy approaching the net consistently to kill many of Rashed's dangerous shots. Khalil displayed a number of

the strength and style of his hits pared for the games. covered up for some of the dou-

boiled down to a younger, physi- attended the game.

round against Pakistan in April. cally more fit and hetter prepared Khalil, former holder of Jordan's men's title, excelled in speed and strategy which he very cogently executed. He managed managing a number of aces. His managing a number of aces. His to draw from his years of experi- stamina, excellent relfexes and ence in the game, making re-latively few inadvertent errors. manoeuvrability skills allowed for impressive shots, and earned him enough confidence to secure bis country a well-earned victory.

Khalil, who hy his own admission is a better doubles than singles player, said he gave it his "best shot." In his view, the carefully thought out shots. Both Kuwaiti team was better pre-

Her Majesty Queen Noor hle faults he would have liked to attended Sunday's matches and distributed symbolic gifts to But the game, which Kuwait members of both teams. A numwon 6-4, 6-2, 6-0, seemingly ber of officials and amhassadors

FOUNTAIN HILLS, Arizona (AP) — In his final week of training, British boxer Frank Bruno had no difficulty battering sparring partner James Pritchard.

Pritchard, a compact heavyweight, was supposed to be emulating Mike Tyson, who Bruno will fight for the heavyweight title. Except he didn't fight much like Tyson.

ted. "And he throws them awful-

is even money whether the fight **GOREN BRIDGE**

"This is a peak time to beat Mike Tyson." Bruno insists.

That Bruno is planning some of his chance of winning the title on Tyson being distracted by his

may be an indication that this Even Pritchard, Bruno's own fight will be as much a mismatch sparring partner, admits his enias most of Tyson's fights have ployer may be in over his head.

"After the fight you ask Frank Bruno whether it was such a peak time," Tyson said. Still, Bruno is upbeat and con-

of training before hreaking camp for Las Vegas.
"I'm actually looking forward to the fight," he said. "The pressure is not on me. He's got every-

fident as he enters his final week

thing to prove to everyone." The normally affable contender bristled recently when a re-porter asked him if be was fighting Tyson just for the \$3.8-million payday, with no hope of winning.
"That's a crazy question," he shot back. "I've made money

before and this ain't about money. I've got a nice life, a good bome, a family. I'm content with my life. But I'm not going to let marital and managerial problems the cherry pass me by again."

NEW YORK - Florence Griffith Joyner is the epitome of glamour and glitz, and now she's getting rich. Jackie Joyaer-Kersee, probably the world's greatest female allaround athlete, says the flash and dash of her sister-in-law doesn't bother her.

By Bob Greene

The Associated Press

"All of us bave our own way of doing things," said Joyner-Kersee... "It's what's inside, not outside, that counts."

At the Scoul Olympics last September, Griffith Joyner took the gold medals for the United States in the 100- and 200-metre dashes and the 400metre relay, and silver in the 1,600-metre relay. She also set world records in the 100 and 200 in 1988, breaking both by unprecedented margins.

Joyner-Kersee won Olympic golds for the United States in the heptathlon and long jump. She twice broke the world record in the heptathlon in 1988, compiling 7,215 points in the U.S. Olympic trials in July and 7,291 points in the Seoul

Celebrated as much for her sparkling costumes and la-quered fingernails as for her running, Griffith Joyner has She doesn't mention that

Sister-in-law athletes take

different paths with mutual respect

received offers from as far away as the Soviet Union and Japan. They've also come from Hollywood for acting roles, from television shows for guest appearances, from magazines for cover photos and lengthy interviews, from publishing companies for publication of ber books and npoems, from companies for product endorsements, from organisations for speaking engagements, from charities for help in raising money for

ing autographed pictures. Joyner-Kersee also bas commercial endorsements, but they are considered to be much less than the flamboyant Griffith Joyner. Still, Joyner-Kersee chooses her words carefully when asked about the

working with children, from

schools for inspirational talks,

and from individuals request-

"What they're looking for is consistency," Joyner-Kersee said of the people who decide

who is going to represent their company. "I'm pleased with what I bave."

she has won the C.C. Jackson award for the outstanding woman in field events for the past six consecutive years. Griffith Joyner, who blossomed last year in the sprints, received the C.C. Jackson award as the outstanding woman track athlete of 1988.

When asked if she felt overshadowed by Griffith Joyner even though she is considered the hest female track and field athlete in the world, Joyner-Kersee pointed to her heart and talked about what's inside.

York to help promote Friday's Millrose games at Madison Square Garden. She will compete in the 55-metre burdles.

Last Thanksgiving, Griffith Joyner was on a float in the Macy's Thanksgiving day parade. Joyner-Kersee was watching the parade with 100 young people from her bometown, East St. Louis, Illinois. She paid for their trip.

"That came from her bonus money she got from her shoe

She also got some of her other sponsors to help," said her husband, Boh Kersee, the women's track coach at University of California at Los Angeles who also coaches his wife and formerly coached Flo

company for winning at Seoul.

"Every one of her contracts gives something back to the community or to the sport of track and field," Kersee said.

Joyner-Kersee said she started her community foundation because when she was growing up there were no local role models for her.

"Being able to go back there thing I enjoy doing," she said. "For most of these kids, the Macy's parade was the first time they had been on an airplane, the first time they had been to New York City. I would like for them to become role models for the next group that comes along." She again pointed to her

"It's been fun. It's put a lot

heart. of things into perspective." she

Bruno banks on Tyson being distracted by marriage problems

.ches than I do," Pritchard admit-

"Tyson throws a lot more pun-

SY CHARLES GOREN FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES

Neither vulnerable. East deals. tions are ± 1943 with Wise VA 10976 m

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Opening lead: Four of O
The prize for the best-played hand at the Junior European Championships went to Hugh McCann of Ircland for this fine effort. The

event was beld in Bulgaria.
North's double of West's frivolous overcall was negative, in effect for takeout. When South showed a spade stopper with his bid of three no trump, his partner worked out that it had to be the king or the ace since, on the auction, South could

THE BETTER HALF,

Bruno, with a 32-2 record, is likely to find that out the hard way Feb. 25 when he steps into the Las Vegas Hilton ring an overwhelming underdog against

The bulking British challenger who hasn't fought in 16 months
 is rated a 9.5-to-1 loser against Tyson. Oddsmakers say it

not hold more than two spades, so

North gambled on the heart slam. We don't blame East for doubling, even though that placed the trumps

Unfortunately for the defenders,

West led the wrong red four. Had he chosen a trump instead of a dia-

mond, he would have defeated the

contract. Declarer took the ace, cashed the ace of spades and ruffed

a club. Two spade ruffs served as

entries for two more club ruffs, and

the queen-king of diamonds were

clarer led dummy's last spade, and

East's goose was cooked. If he

ruffed low, declarer would overruff

and take two more tricks via a club

ruff and the ace of trumps. If he

ruffed high and returned a trump,

declarer would trump with dum-my's ten (or ace, if necessary) and

score the last two tricks on a high

So East discarded his ace of clubs. Declarer countered by ruffing

low, then trumping a club with the ace of bearts. When declarer now

led the last diamond from the

board, he bad to score his queen of trumps en passant for the fulfilling

By Harris

With nine tricks in the bag, de-

The turmoil in Tyson's life is also on Bruno's mind as be trains daily before a hleacher filled with spectators in this suburh of Phoenix. Bruno came here in early January to set up his camp well away from his British followers and the media.

> "What be is going through — I don't think his mind is 100 per cent on the job."

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1989 YOUR HOROSCOPE

- As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: if a complicated situation appears, be tough and handle the problem head on. Draw respect from others hy being firm and steady. Stand your impulses and settle only for the quality you desire.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23 Don't compare yourself to others. Your compare yourself to others. ground if others attack sound ideas. ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) The

pressure may be on all day. Make use of creative ideas. Introduce yourself to someone whose friend-ship you have wented to make. TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) This is one of those days when

sveryone seems to be on your case.
Keep your self-confidence, and
don't hack away from change.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 21!
Sleepy periods may make you feel
in a lazy mood. The exotic will appeal to you. Resist immature temptations.

MOON CHILDREN (Jone 22 to Jul. 21) This is a favorable day to ahop for clothing. You are in the mood to improve things, so put yourself on the top of the list.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Ang. 21) The course of true love does not always run smoothly. You may be asked to prove your love to someone who wants a commitment reaffirmed.
VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22|
Shop today and you may have to

compare yourself to others. Your own atandards of comfort and living will serve you best. Avoid keeping up with the Joneses. SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

You are capable of roaking a strong commitment whether financial, career or to a loved one. Express the depth of your teelings. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 2tl You may need quiet time tonight after surviving this bectic

day. Spand extra time with the CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your charismatic nature will ahine

today. Maka progress in love, creative projects and career where things really connect.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have the power of mind today. Projects started now will get a push from the new moon's position. Look for results in two weeks.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may be feeling the inspiration of the new moon. Make plans to be with understanding friends who can be on your psychic wavelength.

RIGHT NOW, MY PITCHER'S MOUND IS COVERED WITH SNOW, BUT PRETTY SOON IT'LL BE SPRING, AND I'LL BE THROWING THAT FIRST PITCH ...

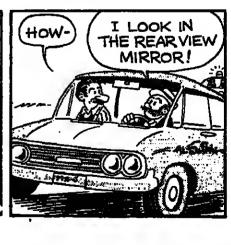




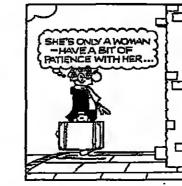
Mutt'n' Jeff,







Andy Capp

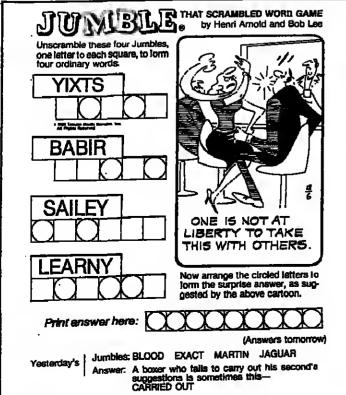


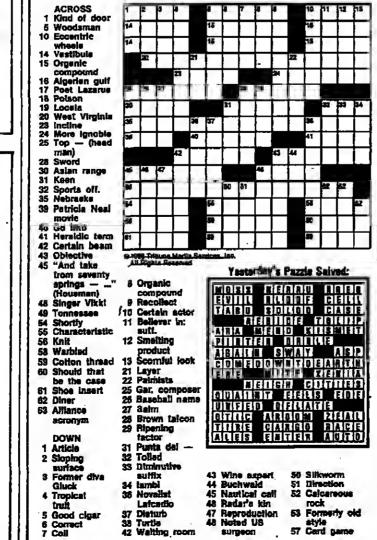












THE Daily Crossword by Wilson McBeath

Jury awards Italians

\$1.5m for JAL crash

County superior court jury has

ordered the Boeing Company to

pay \$1.5 million in damages to

the family of an Italian man and

his son who were among the 520

people who died in the 1985 crash

of a Japan air lines Boeing 747 in

The verdict was returned

Attorneys for the Italian widow, Heidi Moroni, 48, and

her 18-year-old son, Alessandro,

had sought \$6.5 million in dam-

ages from the airplane company.

Her husband, Giancarlo Moro-

Moroni said the award did not

which had to die in this accident.

because the airplane was not

fixed as well as it should have been," she said. "I think you

know two human lives should be

She said jurors worked hard to

understand the complex case, but

Boeing used resources to confuse

and "create difficulties" for the

Boeing has admitted liability

for the crash, saying it was caused

by improper repairs the company

made after the plane scraped its

tail during a hard landing in 1978.

The amount of damages was the only issue to be decided in the

Moroni case and three others, all

MOSCOW (R) - Sanitary con-

ditions have worsened in parts of

earthquake in December and

officials warned Saturday that

epidemics could break out as

spring approached.

The Communist Party commis-

sion tackling the aftermath of the

Dec. 7 quake expressed concern

about conditions in the area

where at least 25,000 people were

killed and more than 100,000

"Although thanks to the self-

sacrificing work of doctors no

epidemics have occurred in cities

or rural regions, there remains a

danger that they could break out.

particularly with the coming of

The report, carried by TASS

news agency, urged all services

"not to lose control of the situa-

The commission, headed by

Deputy Prime Minister Lev Voronin, said reconstruction in

the area was proceeding too

singled out plans by

spring," it said in a report.

tion for one moment.'

northern Armenia struck by an

involving non-Japanese victims, on a roller coaster.

Fears of epidemic

persist in Armenia

worth more.'

There were two human lives

ni, and a second son, Andrea

Moroni, died in the crash.

adequately address her loss.

Friday.

SEATTLE (AP) - A King that are still pending in King

Jurors deliberated a day and a

Damage suits filed on behalf of

half before returning their deci-

71 Japanese nationals against

Boeing and Japan Air Lines have

been moved to Japan for trial.

According to Japanese news

reports last month, there have

been out-of-court settlements

with families of 377 of the crash

Boeing attorney Tom McLaughlin described Friday's

award as "reasonable," and said

the only portion Boeing might challenge is \$200,000 for the suf-

fering endured by the two in the

half-hour the damaged plane re-mained aloft hefore it crashed

Attorneys for the Moronis

wanted the jury to weigh the

sengers in the 32 minutes hefore

the plane crashed into a moun-

tain. The plane lost its tail and

rudder 12 minutes after takeoff

and over the next half-hour the

pilot fought to regain control of

Four people survived the crash.

Boeing argued that there was

no panic in the final minutes of

the flight and a doctor testified

that the acceleration experienced

hy the passengers would have

been much less severe than that

to begin laying foundations only

lished in the Communist Party

newspaper Pravda suggested that

construction standards in the en-

tire Transcaucus area failed to

meet the demands of a seismic

zone and that all buildings should

kov, also suggested that high-

quality earthquake-resistant ce-

ment known to have been stolen

in Armenia had been used to

could be easily detected through

analysis or tests and I think it is

vital to do so now," he wrote.
"These villas, built with stolen

materials, should naturally be

confiscated and used for housing

victims of the earthquake and

their former owners should be

given appropriate criminal

TASS reported the arrival in

Yerevan, the Armenian capital,

of French-Armenian singer

up a fund-raising association for

"Its use in private construction

The engineer, V. Psalomshchi-

A letter from an engineer pub-

at the end of February.

be torn down.

build official villas.

suffering experienced by the pas-

into a mountain.

the crippled plane.

PEKING (R) — China has delayed the confirmation of a summit date with the Soviet Union in a move which diplomatic sources say is aimed at pulling more concessions from Moscow on the Kampuchean

Soviet Foreign Minister invitation Friday to the Kremlin Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to China to prepare the first summit Saturday with conflicting statements from the two sides.

Giving an account of his meeting with 84-year-nld Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in Shanghai. Shevardnauze had reporters running to telephones with the words:

"...We agreed on the date of the forthcoming Soviet-Chinese summit. The visit of Mikhail Gorhachev to the People's Republic of China will take place in mid-May of this year."

The summit would fully normalise state and Communist Party relations between the two China had formally issued an

leader to visit Peking. Chinese and Soviet officials had predicted since 1959 ended in confusion the timing would be announced the next day.

However, just after Shevard-nadze's plane left Peking. Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei told reporters at the airport that mid-May was just a Soviet proposal which Peking would consider.

He also disputed Shevard-nadze's remarks that a meeting with Kampuchean guerrilla lead-er Prince Norodom Sihanouk was not discussed in talks with the Soviet minister.

The subject was raised. Tian said, quoting Shevardnadze as saying the time was not right to meet the exiled Sihanouk, who is currently in Peking.

nadze was lying," an East European source commented.

"We hope the Soviet Union will make more efforts to promote a fair and reasonable settlement of the Kampuchean issue," Tian said in a sombre summary of Shevardnadze's three-day visit.

China and the Sovier Union, he went on, had failed to agree on the make-up of a future Kampuchean government after a with-drawal of Vietnam's Soviet-backed forces.

Diplomats said they were in no doubt that the summit would go ahead and probably in May but serious differences over Kampuchea had scuttled Moscow's attempts to push ahead and puhicly set a specific date. Said a Western diplomat: "It is

in the Soviets' interest to set a date hut not so for the Chinese-They want room to manoeuvre but the odds are that a summit will take place in May." A well-informed Chinese

Sirimayo Bandaranaiko

dom Party.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) -

Top opposition leader and former

Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandar-

anaike survived an apparent

assassination attempt Sunday

when three bombs were hurled at

a public meeting she was addres-sing, authorities said.

Bandaranaike, 72, suffered

minor hruises in a stampede that

followed the explosions, said a member of her Sri Lanka Free-

A military official, who cannot

be identified under briefing rules,

said at least 38 people attending the meeting in the town of Hing-

urakgoda, 165 kilometres north-

source agreed.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze, being greeted by his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen in Peking last week

China wants more concessions.

But the summit must take place lisation of relations. But the summit must take place in the first half of this year," he

Vietnam's occupation of Kam- the other two stated hurdles.

"It's a question of face. Kam-puchea is far from resolved and three "obstacles" cited by China

Moscow's forces in Afghanistan and its troop concentration The Soviet Union's support of along the border with China are

Blast injures former Sri Lankan premier

condition, the official said. Bandaranaike was scheduled to open ber party's campaign for the Feh. 15 general elections at the

meeting.
In other violence, at least eight supporters of the ruling United National Party were killed Saturday by suspected Sinhalese militants, the military official said,

The deaths took place in three towns in southern Sri Lanka, the heartland of the island nation's majority etbnlc group, the Sinhalese.

Meanwhile, in the north, at least five Tamils, the country's largest minority ethnic group. were killed Saturday by Tamil rebels fighting for an independent homeland, the official said.
Both Sinhalese militants and

Tamil rebels oppose holding general elections but for different

The Sinhalese militants have vowed to disrupt the elections as part of their anti-government campaign launched in July 1987. They are opposed to a peace accord signed by the government to persuade Tamil rebels to give east of Colombo, were injured.
At least 14 of the injured were up their fight for an independent

Most Tamil rebel groups accepted the accord. But the largest militia, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, rejected the plan in late 1987 and have since begun killing moderate Tamils, whom they consider traitors.

Saturday's victims were all members of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, one of the Tamil groups that agreed to the government's peace formula,

They were shot and killed near the town of Atchuvelt. about 300 kilometres north of Colombo, the military official

Sinhalese extremists say the July 29, 1987, peace accord gives the minority Tamils too many concessions. Sinhalese make up 75 per cent

of the country's 16 million people and control the government and military. Tamils, who make up Ig per cent of the population, claim they are discriminated against by the Sinhalese.

At least 8,500 people have been killed in the Tamil separatist war since it was launched in 1983. The Sinhalese extremists bave been blamed for another 1,000 killings since July 1987.

construction team from the central Asian republic of Uzbekistan victims of the earthquake. Chinese avant-garde

show shocks police PEKING (R) — China's first the exhibition was closed almost major exhibition of avant-garde as soon as it had begun. art made a shocking debut Sun-

day - police closed it down after a young woman opened fire at a glass sculpture in a "spontaneous art happening."
Already delayed by two years because of political problems, the exhibition opened with a fanfare

of publicity at Peking's China art. gallery. Spectators said young artists threw condoms and money into

the air, undressed and rolled on raw eggs, and sold prawns. Then a young woman — said hy some to be the artist herself stood hetween two mirrors

painted with the image of people making a telephone call and fired two shots from a small pistol.
"She had thought of using a higger gun but this would have smashed the glass. The hullets just drilled two holes. Nobody was hurt. It was part of her art," a

triend said. Police quickly arrived — some armed with suh-machineguns and detained the woman, 26year-old Xiao Lu, and a man. Onlookers were cleared out of the vast three-storey building and

Artists waining outside while organisers negonated inside with the police said the authorities had already expressed horror at some of the more shocking pieces — a giant breast, a plastic phallus hanging from the ceiling and a politically sensitive triptych of Mao Tsetung.

Many of the artists emerged several years ago, inspired by Western abstract and pop art and dadaism of the 1920s.

But a political movement against "bourgeois liberalisation" Western political ideas and influences — prevented them from staging a major public exhibinon until recently.

Artistic hopes were expressed in the exhibition's logo - a roadsign forbidding U-turns to the

Commenting with enthusiasm last week, hefore the opening, the official China Daily said the exhibition would be a spectacular event for struggling young artists but unlikely to attract as many people as the country's first major showing of nude art last

Inmate to return after honeymoon

ELIZABETHTON, Tennessee (AP) — An escaped inmate assured a sheriff's dispatcher in a telephone call that he would be back - after his honeymoon. Melvin Harrell, serving time for a previous escape, called from a pay phone Monday, said dispatcher L.C. Tester, who was not the one to take the call. "He said he had gotten married." Tester said. Harrell offered to let authorines know where he could be picked up after his honeymoon. Tester said. Harrell, a 31-yearold trusty at the Carter County Jail, escaped Jan. 28 by prying a lock off a stairwell door and making it to the roof, authorities said. He also is wanted in Michigan on an escape charge.

Police probe 17th century king's blood

LONDON (AP) — The waistcoat reputedly worn by King Charles I at his beheading in 1649 went back to the Museum of London Tuesday, after a police crime lah failed to determine if its mysterious stains are royal blood. "We have examined it but we cannot tell if the stains are blood," said Graham Divall, a hiochemist at the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory. "If we had a piece of the silk we could look for some form of hemoglohin hy using intensive X-rays to show the protein structure, but naturally, the museum won't let us cut it up," said Divall. To discover whether the stains could have been the king's blood, the museum sent the waistcoat to the lab, where it underwent the routine tests that would be conducted in a modern-day crime, Divall said. "I am convinced we have the king's waistcoat," Kay Staniland, the museum's keeper of costume and textiles, said Monday, the 340th anniversary of the execution. "The workmanship of the knitting is right for the time and when it was bought for us from a collector in 1925, it had a note attached saying it had belonged to Dr. Hobbs, the physician who attended the king on the Scaffold. It then passed to his daughter, Susannah, and remained with their descendants until it was auctioned in 1898," Staniland said.

Madonna, Penn Charles Aznavour, who has set to end marriage

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — Actress-singer Madonna and actor Sean Penn apparently have reached an amicable agreement to end their stormy threeyear marriage and divide their property, court records show. A divorce petition filed in Los Angeles county superior court cited irreconciliable differences and seeks restoration of the pop singer's former name, Madonna Ciccone. It also said community property and financial obligations shared hy the couple "have been disposed of by written agree-ment," No details were disclosed in the two-page pention filed Jan. 25. Madonna publicist Liz Rosenherg said last week that Penn would get couple's Malibu home and the singer would keep their New York apartment. "That's it." Penn publicist Lois Smith said Wednesday. "She kept one and he kept the other." Madonna recently bought a \$2.9-million nome in Hollywood Hills. The divorce action follows a Dec. 28 incident in which police were called to the couple's Malihu nome after the hot-tempered Penn allegedly beat Madonna.

Child's note finds a friend

No charges were filed.

PALM BEACH GARDENS. Florida (AP) — Ashira Konigs-burg was four when she tucked a note into a bottle and tossed it into the Arlantic Ocean. Now she's six and has a new friend in a place she's never heard of, 4,000 kilometres away. Alfredo Sousa Pedro, a 36-year-old cook, found Ashira's 450 grammes soda bottle Jan. 3 as he walked along a beach on Sao Miguel, the largest of the Azores, the Portuguese islands about 1,290 kilometres west of mainland Portugal. The islands are brushed by the same gulf stream currents that flow off Florida. In a telephone interview Wednesday with the Palm Beach Post, Sousa Pedro said he doesn't understand English and so he had his brother read the note. The note explained that Ashira was taking part in a summer-camp ptogramme. It asked whoever found the bottle to return the enclosed form, after noting the place and the day the bottle was found. "It was a strange because it took so long to get here. I knew that I had to write back." Sousa Pedro said.

Reagan busy with post-presidency deals

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ronald Reagan left the White House two weeks ago to retire as elder statesman in his beloved California. but instead of lounging around the pool, he's been husy lining up work and visiting places from his past.

The ex-president has signed a book deal worth up to \$7 million, lined up a 50,000-dollar-perspeech lecture contract and opened his century city offices. where a variety of offers are

There are also social demands: his 78th hirthday party Monday night at the ritzy Bistro Gardens. a Feb. 23 Palm Springs gala honouring Elizaheth Taylor and a private welcome-home dinner

Also Monday, he is to meet Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who returns to Tokyo Tuesday after an eight-day trip to the United States.

"The change of address hasn't caused any slowing down of their (the Reagans') schedule," said Reagan spokesman Mark Wein-berg. "They are very active and on the go."

Shunning the reclusive lifestyle of many celebrities, the couple often venture from their Bel-Air home to dine at Chasens, attend Sunday church services or visit

Secret service agents drive Reagan from his \$2.5 million hillside home to Century City, a distinace of eight kilometres, where he takes a private elevator to his 34th-floor office suite at Fox Plaza and spends about six hours daily at his desk.

Foreign dignitaries dropping in on Reagan have included Ugan-dan President H.E. Yoweri K.

Reagan is apparently fielding offer to sit on corporate boards. He also is being sought for radio, television and motion pictures. Hours after relinquishing the presidency to George Bush Jan. 20, Reagan told cheering supporters at a Los Angeles Internation-

comedy he shared with a chim-"Only this time they wanted me to play Bonzo," he joked.

al Airport rally that he bad been

asked to star in a sequel to

"Bedtime For Bonzo," the 1951

'Military cuts vital to improved Soviet life'

Union cannot hope to achieve improvements in its standard of living without large military cuts. a senior Soviet commentator said Saturday in the government newspaper Izvestia.

Stanislav Kondrashov, analysing last week's publication of troop and arms levels in Europe by the Warsaw Pact, praised the disclosure as a step towards realising Moscow's repeated promises to publish details of its defence budget.

But he said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorhachev would not be able to fulfil his pledges to do away with chronic shortages of food and other basic goods unless he would lighten the country's defence commitments.

Our opponents in the West and in North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) maintain that there is an imbalance in Europe favouring the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact," he

"But for the individual Soviet citizen, for his everyday life, this imbalance takes on another meaning - and one not in our favour...it is this imbalance that must be done away with, achieving lower military preparedness for the sake of raising the peo-

ple's standard of living."
Kondrashov said the Soviet Union's relative contribution to the Warsaw Pact far outweighed that of the United States to the

greater proportion of aircraft, ships and other hardware.

Even making allowances for cheaper military equipment, he said, "one cannot escape the conclusion that support of militarystrategic parity falls more heavily on our shoulders than on those of the West's prosperous citizens."

In disclosing the figures last week, Warsaw Pact defence ministers repeated assertions of a rough parity with NATO in military personnel but acknowledged for the first time numerical superiority in tanks, tactical missilelaunchers and artillery.

It said NATO had a lead in ships, aircraft carriers and certain types of aircraft. NATO has welcomed the disclosures but disagreed with some of the criteria

Kondrashov said the Soviet Union maintained the bulk of its troops within Europe while the United States had only a "forward post" on the continent. Moscow's Warsaw Pact ailies. he said, could not take offence at a recognition that they were outweighed by Washington's NATO

"In terms of population, eco-nomic potential and scientific and technological development, East Germany is not West Germany, Poland is not France. Czechoslovakia is not Britain, Hungary is not Italy and Bulgaria is not Canada," he wrote.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF 'Pakistan test-fires rockets'

ISLAMABAD (R) - Pakistan has successfully test-fired its first long-range surface-to-surface rockets, Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg said Sunday. Beg, quoted by the official APP news agency, said in a speech that two versions of the missiles with a range of 300 kilometres and 80 kilometres respectively were tested recently. He did not give a date. "These are extremely accurate systems and can carry a payload of over 500 kilogrammes," he told military officers at the National Defence College at Rawalpindi, near Islamabad. "These missiles, including their guidance systems, have been developed indigenously," he said. The development could signal a revival of tension between India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since gaining independence from Britain in 1947. Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi warned Pakistan Friday that India would take steps to protect itself if reports of a Pakistani missile test were true.

Soviet Muslims, police clash

MOSCOW (R) - Some 200 Muslims confronted police and disrupted traffic during an illegal rally in the and disrupted traffic during an inlegal rany in the city of Tashkent, accusing local authorities of religious interference, the Soviet news agency TASS said Saturday. TASS said the Muslims, from throughout Central Asia, staged a threehour street demonstration after a prayer meeting on Friday in the Uzbekistan capital's Tilla-Sheikh Mosque. "Public transport was disrupted." the agency said. "Measures were taken by police to prevent violations of public order and protect the security of citizens and the helievers themselves." TASS said there were no clashes with police during the meeting or march, which were not authorised by Tashkent officials. But it was clear

the marchers had confronted police in the streets. The agency said the protesters had shouted religious slogans and complained of government interference in religious affairs in Central Asia, but gave no further details.

Soviets invite Amnesty

LONDON (R) - Amnesty International said Sunday it has been invited to visit the Soviet Union for the first time in a move seen as a hreakthrough by the human rights group. "We received a letter of invitation this month from the Soviet Academy of Sciences. This is a major step forward, said Amnesty spokesman Richard Reoch. The visit will be Amnesty's first to the Soviet Union. Since its foundation in 1961, the London-hased group had made several requests to examine the human rights situation there. No date for the trip bas been set and Amnesty was still deciding which places and people it would seek Soviet permission to visit, Reoch said. "Obviously one of our main objectives will be to find out what steps the government is taking to meet the concerns we have about prisoners of conscience, as well as changes in Soviet law to protect human rights and abolish the death penalty," he said.

Perez offers help to Panama

CARACAS (R) - Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez Saturday offered to work with the United States and all political groups in Panama to assure Panamanian elections scheduled for May mark a return to true democracy. Speaking at his first news conference since his inauguration Thursday, Perez said his relations with the Panamanian government and opposition groups could be useful in seeking reforms leading to a

Year of the snake sends mixed signals to Asia's soothsayers

By Victoria McGlothren

HONG KONG - Fortune tellers are doing a roaring trade as Asia awaits the arrival of the year of the snake.

Among their predictions: Political instability in Japan but no catastrophic Tokyo earthquake, more domestic turmoil in South Korea, inflation in Hong Kong and a bad time everywhere for getting married or having babies.

The snake's reign begins Feb. 6, the start of the lunar new year. Lunar years in the Chincse zodiac come in cycles of 12, each with different characteristics and a different animal as its symbol.

The snake takes over from the financially auspicious dragon, and people born under

the serpent's influence can be expected to be cautious. persevering and wise.

But astrologers warn that beneath the snake's composed exterior lurks inner turbulence and a readiness to strike - a complex package with mixed signals for fortune-tellers looking to almanacs, divining sticks and even the moon to predict the year ahead.

Kensei Suzukei, who has been telling fortunes on Tokyo streets for 35 years, said Japan's economic performance would continue at a brisk pace.

"But I think despite the appearance of peace, various unstable factors will surface in

Japan's politics." Tessui Nanjo, a 77-year-old palm reader, said Japan would continue to face trade friction with major powers.

The snake will bring a year of external calm marked by internal turmoil," said Shin Nam-Yong, a South Korean fortune teller. He predicted economic sta-

bility for South Korea - in sharp contrast to the dragon's dynamism — until September. when an unspecified dramatic event would spark a downturn. "The internal chaos seething

during the first eight months of this year will be manifested from September," Shin said. A geomancer in Hong Kong disagreed, saying a strong, Earth element — natural ele-

ments are also vital ingredients

in the Chinese zodiac -

accompanied the snake this

year. Their compatability

bodes well for the economy in

both the British colony and the world. "Dragons like water, but last

year too much Earth covered -the dragon," said Sung Sui-Kwong. "Snakes are well-protected by the Earth. This will be good for the economy." 'We must be careful,

though. There is also a strong metal element in the year ahead. The metal element moves money, sometimes too much, and that could create inflation." An astrologer in Taiwan said

the snake's down-to-earth influence was a good follow-up to the high-flying dragon. "The snake should be better for the economy. People will be willing to work harder than in the dragon year when every-

one was hoping for big

money," said Ho Pao-Chin, who uses the Chinese lunar calendar to tell fortunes in downtown Taipei.

Business affairs are high on the list of priorities for fortune tellers in South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong, known as the "little dragons" or "tigers" because of their surging economies.
"In the financial field we

shall see some light," said Lee Siow Mong in Singapore. "It will be much better than in 1988 — make no mistake about South Korea's Shin said: "If

buying stocks is your game, go for the steady blue chip or banking stocks. But you would be far better off putting your money in a fixed interest-rate

Hong Kong's Sung said Earth-and metals-related stocks, such as properties and mining, were good bets.

Sceptics tempted to dismiss all this as mere superstition should be reminded that the year of the dragon lived up to its reputation as harbinger of disaster when hundreds died in an earthquake in southwestern

The quake was the mainland's worst since one that killed 250,000 in 1976 - the last dragon year.

Fortune-tellers agree snake years do not typically bring natural disasters.

In Tokyo, where many say a major earthquake of the destructive force that rocked the city in 1923 is long overdue, palm-reader Nanjo was specific: "There will be no major earthquakes.

The year of the snake is not auspicious for marriage and babies, however.

Population-planners in Peking will have a respite after last year's rush to give birth in the year of the dragon, a symbol of power and wealth to the

Officials in Singapore, wor-ried the snake could foil a government campaign urging couples to marry and have children, have moved to dispel superstition by publicising names of famous people born under the snake sign.

Unfortunately their list includes John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln, both U.S. presidents who were assassin-

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